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VITOSHA PEOPLE'S PARK

Naroden Park Vitosha /Vitosha  
People's Park/, 1956, Sofia,  
Pages 7-145

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VITOSHA HISTORICAL-GEOGRAPHIC SURVEY

The Vitosha Mountains rise like a huge haystack south of Sofia and are indivisibly linked with the city. Their mighty profile provides the background for the largest Sofia thoroughfares (Ruski, Stalin, and Tolbukhin Boulevards) -- brilliantly white in winter and lilac and blue in hue during the summer. The mountains halt unfavorable southern and southwestern winds, freshen the air, and clear Sofia's atmosphere of smoke and dust. Their meadows, dales, moraines, plateaus, and forests offer Sofia and Dimitrovo hikers ideal opportunities for relaxation and rest.

Vitosha in the Past

When the Macedonian king Philip II climbed Vitosha 2,100 years ago it took him 3 days to hack his way through the dense, impenetrable forests, and he was still unable to reach Vitosha's highest peak -- Cherni Vrukh Peak. Until Bulgaria fell to the Turks, Vitosha was entirely covered with century-old forests. Violent, brimming rivers raced down the mountain sides in those times and abundantly watered the Sofia plain. The Vitosha forests are mentioned by the famous Turkish traveler Evliya Chelebi, who traveled in Bulgarian lands in the seventeenth century. "There is, at Bali-Efendi village," (today's Knyazhevo -- editor's note) he wrote, "a thick oak forest which no arrow can pierce and no bullet can penetrate." Now only a few old oaks remain of this forest. They rise isolated among the pine trees in the forest above Knyazhevo. They are estimated to be over 500 years old.

The destruction of the ancient Vitosha forests began in the seventeenth century and continued through the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, and kept pace with the development of the ore industry, which absorbed much charcoal. This is witnessed by place names still preserved in Vitosha, such as those borne by Rudarska (Ore) Hamlet, the Rudarshtitsa River, and the Rudartsi site.

Surveys of old Bulgarian geographical sources indicate that one of the first names given Vitosha was "Skopar," from the Latin Scopus. Today this name is born by part of the southern slope of the mountain -- Skoparnik. This old name means sharpness, or steep mountain.

The name Vitosha is found later, during the Middle Ages, first as a name of a section; later it became general for all the mountains. This name is of Thracian or Slavic origin and has been generally adopted. It means 2-peaked (double headed) mountain; that is the impression the mountains give when the highest peaks -- Cherni and Rezhyovete -- are viewed from afar.

#### Geographic Milieu, Structure and Shape

Vitosha is surrounded on all sides by high plains. To the north stretches the Sofia plain, 550 m altitude, to the west -- the Dimitnevo plain, 750 m altitude, and to the south -- the Samokov plain, with an altitude of about 1,000 m. To the east the Iskur River separates Vitosha from Lozenska Mountain -- the last western fold of the Sredna Gora Mountains. The Vladaya pass separates the Vitosha and Lyulin mountains. Lyulin is the link between Vitosha and the Kraishteto labyrinth. Southeast of Vitosha stretches the Plana Mountain, a continuation of Vitosha. Its highest peak is the Manastirishte (1,338.2 m).

According to professor Ishirkov's estimates the Vitosha Mountain area is 267 sq km; only 161 sq km of this are included in the territory of the park. Vitosha is about 20 km long and about 19 km wide. It belongs to the high mountain class (average altitude 1,382 m), and is characterized by great absolute height at its base and a lack of deeply entrenched valleys.

Compared to the mountains of the Rila-Rhodope group, Vitosha is a very young mountain formation. The main mass was formed by the solidification of magma which came from the inside of the earth and which determined the volcanic nature of the Vitosha Mountains.

After the lifting of Vitosha, water and air began to act upon it. Simultaneously, the influence of interior forces -- the earthquakes -- continued, causing the crumbling of rock even at great distances. The warm "Ovcha Kupel" spring appeared in 1853 after one of these earthquakes.

Bulgarian and foreign scientists have long studied Vitosha's rock structure, but much still remains unknown. The larger part of the Vitosha's rock structure is of eruptive origin, and consists of syenite, gabbro, granite, andesite, and porphyry, which have formed on the surface. Later, during the Tertiary Era, cracks appeared around Vitosha as a result of the lifting of the Stara Planina Mountains. The burning lava which flowed from these cracks covered the foothills of the mountains, which in turn were beginning to "grow" in height due to the sinking of the surrounding plains.

The mountains as we see them today are the result of thousands of years of the subsequent effects of external forces -- mainly erosion. However the hardness of the core prevented deep entrenchment in the body of the mountains except in the lower parts, where



the valleys of the Boyanska, Dragalevska, Yanchovska, Stara Reka, Struma, Matnitsa, and Vladayska rivers now are.

The nucleus of the geological structure of the Vitosha Mountains consists of syenites and andesites which predominate in the foothills.

Due to the variety of its rock, the Vitosha is rich in minerals. Gold deposits are found, principally in the old geological formations. The main oriferous deposits in the Vitosha Mountains are along the Palikariya, Struma, Vladayska, Vistrishka, and other rivers. Many legends and names have come down to us as a result of the gold mining of old; among these the most characteristic is the name of the "Zlatnite Mostove" (The Golden Bridges) site, where until recently, gold was panned.

Iron was produced in the Vitosha Mountains as well. Such production developed in the regions where the only material for iron production -- magnetic sand -- could be found. Forges and blast furnaces were built around the Vitosha foothills near Chupetlovo, Popovo, Krapets, Kladnitsa, Marchaevo, Rudartsi, Bistritsa, and Zheleznitsa villages, where the Vitosha iron was processed.

The mountains also contain deposits of red quartz, agate, chalcedony, opal, amphibole, tourmalin, chalcite, chalcopryrite, and apatite.

The Vitosha massif differs from Bulgarian mountains in their shape. The mountains rise toward the center from all sides and form a real mountain peak. It resembles a grandiose old building imposing principally by virtue of its monumental profile.

### Vitosha Peaks

Vitosha has 9 peaks more than 2,000 m high and 14 peaks more than 1,500 m high. The highest is Cherni Vrukh Peak (2,285.256 m), which is centrally located in the mountains. Compared to the foothills of the mountain, which are never lower than 700 m altitude and which are not concealed by lower foothills and rises, the relative altitude of Cherni Vrukh Peak is about 1,600 m (in relation to Sofia -- about 1,748 m).

Cherni Vrukh Peak rises in the center of the body of the mountain and is 15 km from Sofia, 7.800 km from Dragalevtsi village, 9.800 km from Rayko Daskalovo village and 5.850 km from Chupetlovo village. It is closest to Chupetlovo village and farthest from Sofia and Rayko Daskalovo village. Its geographic position is 40° 56' 37" East and 42° 33' 45" North.

Cherni Vrukh Peak can be seen from almost any point in Sofia, but despite its height, dominating over the surrounding peaks, its profile does not show up clearly. It is often mistaken for the Reznovete Peaks, which because of their proximity to Sofia appear comparatively higher than they really are.

From the Vitosha Mountains the tourist sees an extensive panorama: in clear weather it is even possible to see the Danube River near the small Danube port of Tsibur.

In his book Vitosha [The Vitosha Mountains], P. Deliradev divides the Vitosha peaks into 6 groups:

1. The Cherni Vrukh group, with the following peaks: Cherni Vrukh (2,285 m), Reznovete (Maluk Rezen and Golyam Rezen) (2,191 m and 2,278 m), and Skoparnik (2,228 m) which projects upward in a powerful rocky ridge.

2. The Kupa group, with the following main peaks: Golyamiyat Kupa (2,106 m), Belchova Skala (1,831 m), and Siva Gramada (2,003 m). The peaks of the Cherni Vrukh and Kupa groups have no forests. Only isolated groups of trees remain of the former juniper forests.

3. The Belimitsa group, which includes the following peaks: Belimitsa (2,048 m), Vladayski Cherni Vrukh (1,641 m), and Ostritsa (1,695 m), located west of Cherni Vrukh Peak.

4. The watershed group, which includes the peaks which form the ridge of the watershed between the tributaries of the Struma and the Iskur rivers. This ridge includes Vododel and Chernata Skala (1,869 m) peaks. The Chernat Skala Peak looms majestically above Zlatnite Mostove site.

5. The Kamen Del group, which includes as its main peaks Kamen Del (1,862 m), which is the peak most clearly seen from Sofia and the Sofia plain; Kikish, a weakly delineated peak located below Kamen Del; Ushite, south of Kamen Del and having an altitude of 1,906 m; and the Kominite Peaks, which rise against the backdrop of the Dragalevska River, and whose name [The Chimneys] suits the overall architectural structure of the mountain perfectly.

6. The Goliyat Vrukh group, which includes the insignificant and poorly delineated peaks west of the Dragalevska River, central place among which is given to Goliyat Vrukh Peak -- 1,721 m. Vulchata Skala Peak rises east of Goliyat Vrukh Peak, providing a beautiful view toward the Sofia plain, and further down, near the Dragalevtsi Monastery, the Golyamo Gradishte and Malko Gradishte Peaks, on which fortresses probably were built in ancient times, stretch

terrace-like. Golyamo Gradishte Peak, which is covered with vegetation, is also called Zeleni Vrukh Peak (1,204 m).

Apart from these groups, the Vitosha Mountains contain many other less significant or isolated peaks, of which we might mention Krusta (1,562 m), Mala Mogila (1,419 m), Chukara (1,516 m) and Golyam Rid. East of Golyam Rid Peak and across the valley of the Palikariya River rises the profile of Vetren Peak (1,632 m), and above Yarlovo village itself, small Fogledets Peak -- southernmost peak in the Vitosha Mountains -- rises.

#### High Plateaus

The high plateaus are a characteristic peculiarity of the Vitosha Mountains. They are believed to have resulted from the laccolith formations in Central Vitosha and the side props of andesite rock. Most of the plateaus are real water reservoirs; some of these still bear the names of swamps.

The more significant plateaus are the high Chernovrushko plateau, located between Reznovete, Cherni Vrukh and Skoparnika peaks; the Karachair Plateau between the Kipen group and the upper reaches of the Struma River; Gorno Blato, below the northwestern foothills of Cherni Vrukh Peak; Kapaklievets, a plateau which hangs like a lid over the Goli Vrukh Vitosha Sector; this is the origin of its name; the Dolno Blato Plateau, southeast of the Kapaklievets Plateau; the Selimishko Plateau which begins at the swampy saddle at the Samara site and ends at the Tri Kladentsi site; and the Boyana Plateau, lying terrace-like above the Boyana Falls.

The high Vitosha plateaus are interesting places for hiking and skiing. However most of them are included in the restricted territory of water supply zones.

### Stone Rivers

The most typical and characteristic sights of Vitosha scenery are the so-called "moraines." They run like huge stone rivers from the peaks to the foothills of the mountains.

It is true that such rock formations can be found in other Bulgarian mountains as well, but nowhere are they in such abundance as in the Vitosha Mountains.

The stone rivers are typical of almost all parts of the mountain. (Despite the general name "moraines" given to the Vitosha Mountains' stone rivers, the latest scientific research has proved that they are not of glacial origin.)

In location, the stone rivers follow the slopes, the mountain valleys and ridges in the topography. In some places they widen and form stone lakes. The most stone rivers and lakes can be found along the upper reaches of the Struma, Matnitsa, Kladnishka, Rudarshtitsa, Vladayska, and Boyanska rivers. Among the stone formations in the Vitosha Mountains that on the northern side of Kamen Del Peak is particularly expressive. It is a real stone basin where vegetation is slowly pushing ahead.

One must cross the expanses of stone carefully, particularly in winter when the holes between the rocks are covered with soft snow.

### Vitosha Rivers and Lakes

The steep valleys of the Vladayska, Boyanska, Dragalevska, Yanchovska, Stara Reka, Zheleznishka Reka, Struma and Matnitsa rivers are of a peculiar and characteristic nature.

The Vladayska River springs forth below Cherni Vrukh Peak and cuts through the northern slope of the mountains to Rayko Daskalovo village. Along its lower reaches, the river is lined by deciduous vegetation in which beech, oak, trembling poplars, and birches predominate. There are stone pools in which bushes and flowers grow in varicolored patches.

The Boyanska River is famous principally for its typical Boyana Falls, formed at a rocky site above Boyana village. They have a fall of about 40 m. The Boyana Falls are the highest falls in the park.

The Dragalevska River, which is steeper, runs from Aleko to Dragalevtzi village. The river is particularly beautiful near the Kominite Peaks where the valley is covered with hornbeam, juniper trees, black and white pine, trembling poplars, and birches.

The 2 Bistritsa rivers -- the Yanchovska and Stara Reka rivers -- have characteristics of high mountain streams. The Zheleznishka River is steep, but its eastern exposure offers wide scope for diversified afforestation.

The valley of the Matnitsa River is quite different from the other valleys. It runs between the Selimitsa and Samaro peaks and joins the lake at the Studena dam. This valley widens out below the Nahev Kamuk site and provides a convenient site for tourists to camp.

Although outside the boundaries of the park, the Struma River valley will always be one of the most attractive parts of the mountain region. It begins on the edge of the high mountain zone at Sukhoto Lake and Vurila Reka River. The sight of the Struma

River is one of the most beautiful views in the mountains at the Chupetlovo village. It flows down the karst canyon between Chupetlovo and Bosnek villages, where the famous Bosneshka cave is located.

Vitosha is rich in thermal springs formed in connection with the cretaceous eruptions around the mountains: in Sofia, Gorna Banya, Ovcha Kupel, Knyazhevo, Dragichevo, Bankya, Kladnitsa, Pancharovo, Zheleznitsa, and other smaller springs. Most probably these thermal springs get their thermic energy from the interior of the Vitosha Mountains.

Recently, near Rudazska Makhala village, the "Dimitrovo" mines have made use of the mineral waters, by building a beautiful swimming pool in the foothills of the mountains. This is also an interesting tourist site for hikers who visit the western slopes of the mountain.

The karst spring called "Zhivata Voda" [Live Water] and between Chupetlovo and Krapets villages is of particular interest. This spring was mentioned in the seventeenth century by the Turkish traveler Evliya Chelebi, who called it "The Fountain of Happiness." The spring's outpourings increase at intervals of several minutes. The reason for this is an underground karst cave which acts as a siphon, causing the fluctuation in the water's flow.

The mountain lakes characteristic of the Rila and Pirin mountains do not exist in the Vitosha Mountains because of the geological and geographic structure of the mountain, the climate, and the comparatively rapid melting of the snow. Nor do the Vitosha Mountains contain the peculiar cirque holes in which one usually sees the shining, crystal clear waters of glacial lakes.

Yet historical data indicates that the Vitosha Mountains once had high mountain lakes. Such, for example, was the so-called Sukhoto Ezero [Dry Lake] site above Chupetlovo village at the source of the Struma River. Local legends say, and old residents remember that the Sukhoto Ezero site was not always dry. Everything seems to indicate that it was artificially drained to serve the needs of the ore processing industry. The topographical structure of the site clearly shows human interference.

Now the Vitosha Mountains have only one lake -- Boyana Lake, above Boyana village. However conditions for the creation of artificial lakes are favorable. One of the lakes which could most easily be restored is, of course, Sukhoto Ezero Lake.

#### Vitosha Mountain Vegetation

The Vitosha Mountains attract many visitors not only because of the mountain scenery, the stone rivers and forests, but also because of the beauty of their vegetation. According to specialists almost 1/2 the varieties of floral vegetation in Bulgaria is represented in the Vitosha Mountains. The Vitosha flowers include some comparatively rare examples of Bulgarian flora never found outside Bulgaria or the Balkan peninsula.

Its flowers are the greatest decorative wealth of these mountains. Tourists must preserve this wealth, especially because lately some of the special and rare kinds of flowers have been threatened with extinction. Even some of the most common varieties are becoming rarer and rarer. These include the snow drop, which are now found at only 3 sites, the iris -- 3 sites, the yellow Vitosha double-blush peony -- 2 sites, the yellow gentian -- 2 sites, etc.



There are also other kinds of flowers which have almost disappeared, such as the blue-bell, the yellow Petrov krust, the spotted yellow gentian, some kinds of orchids, anemones, etc.

In general Vitosha Mountain vegetation was only slightly influenced by climatic changes, due to the lack of glaciation during the glacial period. That is why we find several different kinds of European continental tertiary vegetation here. The preservation of such vegetation is very important to science and to the park.

Following are some rare types of vegetation which are under the special protection of the park authorities: the yew-tree, the fir [Bulgarian: chudnata ela] (growing along the lower reaches of the Petrovichka River), the white pine (around the basins of the Bistrishka, Boyanska, and Vladayska rivers), the juniper tree (in the Bistritsa reserve, above the Aleko tourist hut, below the Mecha Polyana meadow, etc), the yellow gentian, the vedritsa, the honeysuckle, club moss, fern, lion's foot, the Vitosha tulip, the wild tulip, the Alpine pansy, and the Vitosha narcissus.

To preserve vegetation in the park, it has been necessary to establish special natural sites called "reserves." The knowledge of their location is an important prerequisite for their protection. There are 2 reserves in the Vitosha People's Park which are subject to special regulations: the Bistritsa reserve and the turf reserve. The Bistritsa reserve is on the northeastern slope of the mountain below Golyam Rezen Peak, in the water basin of the Bistritsa River. It is 759.9 ha in area. One may cross the reserve only along the Bistritsa-Aleko route. The turf reserve is in the high mountain belt southwest of the Kapaklievets site and is included in the water reservoir zone of the Vitosha Mountains. That is why it is forbidden to cross it.

The varied Vitosha vegetation is constantly changing. In spring the mountains offer us the bright green hues of awakening nature -- broad meadows covered with crocus, cowslips, and Vitosha tulips. In summer the vegetation reaches its peak of development and variety of color. In autumn we see the fantastic yellow and copper-red hues of the leaves.

In winter the Vitosha's aspect is completely different. The multicolored hues of spring and summer are replaced by a white coverlet on which the dark shapes of the leafless trees and the junipers are projected. The white monochromatic symphony of winter is even further diversified by the sun's rays which reflect a new range of color from the snow blanket -- blue and lilac. The torrential streams freeze into bluish-green shapes and the calmness of winter settles over the region.

#### Vitosha Mountain Climate

The Vitosha Mountain climate is a function of their geographic location. There is still limited data on the Vitosha climate due to the lack of long-term meteorological observations and an insufficiently dense network of observation stations.

Climatically, Vitosha can be divided into 5 natural regions:

1. The northeastern slope of the mountains, with the coldest climate and comparatively great cloudiness and precipitation.
2. The northwestern slopes, exposed to strong, mostly western and northwestern winds.
3. The southwestern slopes, comparatively warm and sunny, principally under the influence of western and northwestern winds.

4. The southern slopes, the warmest and sunniest, on which no observation data is available.

5. A high plateau, over 1,800 m altitude, with northwestern, western, eastern, and southern winds. Above this plateau the heaviest clouds accumulate and linger.

The main wind axis of Vitosha runs from west to east. The winds from the west, following the Vladaya pass, and those blowing across the highest parts of the mountains, are the strongest.

Precipitation increases with the elevation of the mountain slopes. The most humid sector is the high Vitosha plateau, where most of Vitosha's turf areas are.

The mountain receives more sun in winter than in summer (because of the clouds). In this respect, the winter season most favors the highest parts of Vitosha.

The best, the least cloudy, months are July, August, September, and October, and the winter months -- December, January, and February. The worst are in early spring. These months are characterized by few sunny days and frequent and abundant precipitation.

The fogs which cover the high parts of the mountains, as well as the rains and blizzards, seriously hinder winter hiking trips in Vitosha. Vitosha has less fog in winter than Sofia. The fewest dark and foggy days during the winter months occur in December and January. The foggy days during the year in Vitosha total about 4 months. There is least fog in August, with about 10 absolutely clear days, and in July, September, and October, with 9 clear

days per month. On an average, Vitosha has about 6 clear days a month, with an annual average of about 76 clear days. In general there are more clear days in the Vitosha Mountains in winter than in Sofia.

#### Settlements, Monasteries, and Points of Interest

A real necklace of settlements surrounding the mountain on all sides has been established around the Vitosha andesite (external) ring, on tertiary or diluvial deposits. Vitosha has been populated during all historic and prehistoric epochs. Neolithic settlements have been discovered there. During Roman times, and even more extensively during the Middle Ages, Vitosha had an entire system of mountain fortifications, whose ruins are still called fortifications or forts. These include, for example, the ruins south of Boyana village, known also as "Tukhlite" [The Bricks], the ruins above the Sveti Nikola Monastery, the Malko Gradishte and Golyamo Gradishte ruins above the Dragalevski Monastery, etc. Such old forts also existed around the Vitosha Dragalevtzi, Boyana, Vladaya, Kladnitsa, Popovo, Krapets, Zheleznitsa, and Chupetlovo villages. Some of these forts were built to protect the gold and iron mining, others were purely strategical. Remnants of a Thracian settlement have been found at Kikish Peak.

During the Middle Ages Vitosha was famous for its 40 or so small and large monasteries. Today only the Dragalevski and Kladnitski monasteries remain. The others were destroyed by the Turkish conquerors. Later the Turks forbid the restoration of the churches and monasteries which had been destroyed; thus even their ruins have been lost in the course of the centuries.

The Dragalevski Monastery, in the midst of a century old beech forest, was founded by Ivan Aleksandur during the first 1/2 of the fourteenth century. After Sofia and its surroundings fell to the Turks, the monastery was neglected until 1476, when a Sofia merchant, Radoslav Mavur, restored it and provided the funds necessary for painting the frescoes in the church. This has been preserved and is one of the most valuable Bulgarian artistic monuments, although it is not in very good condition.

The Kladnitski Monastery is on the narrow rocky ridge between the 2 streams called Zla Reka and Virovete, whose upper reaches are linked by an artificial canal. Once the highest part of the monastery was fortified and served to protect the monastery and its property. An old legend says that when the Turks besieged the fort, a woman from Studena village revealed to the Turks the secret of the water supply of the fort's defenders, and the fort fell to the Turks. Since then, there have been no marriages between inhabitants of Kladnitsa and Studena villages.

Boyana village, in the foothills of the Vitesha Mountains, boasts another interesting site -- the "Sveti Panteleymon" Boyana church, one of the most valuable Bulgarian architectural monuments. The church is in the upper part of Boyana village in a court yard covered with lush vegetation and is visited by foreigners and tourists. The murals in the church, dating from 1259, are particularly interesting. The church was built and decorated by order of its founders, Sebastocrator Kaloyan and Princess Desislava, during the reign of King Konstantin Asen and Queen Irina, whose portraits have been preserved for posterity in the very beautiful drawings of the Boyana master. The peculiarity of these paintings is their realistic

expressiveness and closeness to life and reality. In this respect these portraits somewhat foreshadow the works of Giotto, the early Italian Renaissance master.

Centuries later -- on 17 and 18 May 1924 -- the illegal Vitosha conference of the members of the BKP (BCP, Bulgarian Communist Party) was held below the "Trendafilo" site. Today a commemorative stone has been put there as a witness of the party's great fight during the dark days of fascist slavery.

The famous illegal press was located in Vitosha, below the Rasturenata Skala site and southeast of Boyana Lake.

The sub Vitosha villages, between 750 m (Boyana, Dragalevtzi) and 1,200 m (Chupetlovo village) altitude are in the foothills of the mountains, almost equidistant from one another.

The population of the Vitosha villages is engaged mainly in agriculture and livestock breeding, supplemented by quarrying. Thanks to the favorable climate and beautiful scenery, these villages are rapidly developing into first class resorts for the population of the capital.

Chupetlovo village is particularly interest for its scenery. It nestles in the upper end of the small closed valley of the Struma River, in the folds of the mountains themselves. Chupetlovo village is one of the highest Bulgarian mountain villages.

## ROADS, BUILDINGS, AND ROUTES

### Roads

#### Footpath Network

The network of footpaths for hikers in the park consists of trails, highways, standard horse cart tracks, etc. So far the tourist footpaths are the most important for the movement within the park.

According to their importance and the traffic they bear, these footpaths can be divided into a first class, second class, and third class and on the basis of their importance in the tourist network of the park -- into direct (connecting) and indirect. On the basis of the season in which they are used, they can also be divided into summer -- tourist -- or winter -- skiing.

The footpath network has been marked to facilitate orientation within the park. In the high mountain part the marking has been done with triangular wooden signs and in the remaining part, with standard type and size rectangular signs.

### Summer Roads

#### Footpaths

The park trails are classified and described in the guide according to starting points. Every footpath is described as to its class, location, and starting point.

Capital letters in the descriptions are abbreviations of the names of the various approaches. The abbreviations adopted in the guide are as follows: KN -- from Knyazhevo; BN -- from Boyana;

DR -- from Dragalevtzi village; SM -- from Simeonovo village; BS -- from Bistritsa village; KL -- from Kladnitsa village; and RD -- from Rayko Daskalovo village.

The footpaths beginning at the "Malchika" (Kumata), "Aleko," "Tintyava," and "Edelvays" tourist huts and leading to Cherni Vruh Peak are marked KM, AL, TH, and ED, respectively.

The Roman numeral following the capital letters indicates the class of the footpaths (I, II, III), while the Arabic numeral following it is the footpath's number. The numbering of the first class footpaths follows a general system for the whole of the park, while the numbering of the second and third class footpaths is based on the areas where the individual starting points are found. Both systems of numbering begin at the northwesternmost side of the park or the area in which the starting point is and proceed clockwise from west to east. The signs and descriptions in the guide are synchronized with the maps.

The descriptions of the footpaths begin at the bottom, following the direction of the climb; their branches are indicated by direction -- to the left or to the right -- and in accordance with the 4 points of the compass.

The distances given as total lengths of the footpaths are the result of direct measurement, while the distances between various sites are approximate and are principally for orientation.

Only the first and second class footpaths within the park have been described. Only the most outstanding features of the third class footpaths have been indicated.



The hiking time has been determined on the basis of the capabilities of an average hiker.

#### STARTING POINT KNYAZHEVO (KN)

(Knyazhevo is the largest of the Vitosha settlements. It is on the left bank of the Vladayska River, on both sides of the Sofia-Dimitrovo highway.

(Until 1883 Knyazhevo bore the name Bali-Efendi, after the shepherd preacher buried in the local churchyard.

(The settlement has a high school, post office, polyclinic, pharmacy, and well organized shops in which hikers can purchase all the food they will need in the mountains. A monument to the war dead stands in the center of the settlement.

(South of the village, in the foothills of the Vitosha, is the Knyazhevo pine forest, planted in 1896 and now turned into a park.

(Knyazhevo is known for its mineral baths as well as a resort settlement and a starting point for hikes. The main mineral spring at the "Knyazhevo" Bath has a flow of 280 l/m and a temperature of 31.5°C.)

It is 7.5 km southwest of Sofia and 2.5 km northwest of Boyana, at an altitude of 750 m. It is linked with Sofia by a double track street car line and a first class paved road.

The trip from Sofia to Knyazhevo can be made on street car No 5, which starts from "Lenin" Square. The first street car leaves Sofia for Knyazhevo at 0455 hours and the last car back to Sofia leaves at 0030 hours. The trip takes 25 to 30 minutes between terminals.

First Class FootpathKnyazhevo-"Malchika" (Kumata) Tourist hut KN I.

Length of the footpath	9.380 km
Climb	974 m
Average inclination	10%
Can be walked in 3 hours 30 minutes.	

The footpath from Knyazhevo to the "Malchika" (Kumata) tourist hut begins at Polyclinic No 21 in the square at Knyazhevo, passes by the cultural club, mounts the steps, cuts across the Knyazhevo-Boyana highway and enters the Knyazhevo Pine Forest Park. It goes to the southwest, crosses the small wooden bridge over the Rakovets ravine, follows the street along the left bank of the ravine for some distance and reaches the northeasternmost corner of the young pine forest at the Rakovets site.

At the young pine forest, the footpath divides into 2 parts. The first goes steeply upward along the left bank of the ravine to the highway leading to the Zlatnitsa Mostovo site west of the Forest House, while the second goes west, following the northern side of the young pine forest and the old Bela Voda road. Following this road, the footpath gradually climbs and, crossing consecutively the Chervenata Mogila, Zhabarskoto and Sinyata Skala sites, reaches the "Stariyat Razsadnic" site, at which point a wide footpath branches off to the left, going east toward the highway and the Rakovets Forest House.

One hundred meters to 150 m higher, the footpath passes the fountain at the "Skendera" site, goes through the underpass especially constructed for it under the newly abuilding automobile road

to the Zlatnits Mostove site, and emerges east of the restaurant at the Belata Voda site. Belata Voda is the most popular site in the Knyazhevo sector of the park. Here the hikers, having climbed the steepest part of the road up the mountain, halt to rest, drink water, or eat at the restaurant. The distance from the starting point here is 2,450 m, but due to the sharp incline it can only be climbed slowly and with relatively great effort.

From the Belata Voda site upwards, the footpath goes south, up the shallow steps, then turns to the west and emerges on Yavorov hill at the Balkoncheto site. From here a wide scenic view of Sofia and the Sofia plain opens out. A short distance beyond the Balkoncheto site, after cutting through a young beech forest, the footpath emerges on the meadow at the Chereshte site and changes direction from southwest to southeast. The newest part of the footpath passes the fountain at the Valozite site and emerges at the Malinarski road, some 100 m from the Makicharnika rest point.

Here the footpath turns, crosses the Malinarski road, and after winding through the forest emerges in the meadow at the Karpuzoviya Valog site to the left of the tourist shelter. The Karpuzoviya Valog site is second in importance among the rest points only to the Belata Voda site. At this point the great climb is behind the hikers and after a rest the climb seems comparatively agreeable and easy.

On the ridge directly above the Karpuzoviya Valog site, a second class footpath -- KN II<sub>3</sub> -- goes off to the left toward the southeast, in the direction of the "Mamina Skala" tourist hut, while the main path continues along the highway to the "Planinets" tourist hut. Another branch -- second class footpath KN II<sub>4</sub> -- shoots off at the Planinets fountain, leading to the "Planinets" tourist hut,

and to the "Zlatnits Mostove" site, while the footpath leading to the "Malchika" tourist hut continues to the south, cuts across the third class footpath leading from the "Planinets" tourist hut to the "Mamina Skala" tourist hut, passes through the Malinazha site, crosses the highway leading to the "Bor" tourist hut, and emerges in the court yard of the newly constructed "Septemvri" tourist hut.

Fifty to 60 m above the tourist hut the footpath is joined by third class footpath KN III<sub>10</sub>, which comes in from the right from the Beli Bryag site, while on its left third class footpath BN III<sub>11</sub> shoots off to the "Bor" tourist hut. Then the footpath goes south for a certain time, circles Burdarov's grave, and continues, through a beautiful coniferous forest, toward the Boeritsa forestry station. Crossing the bridge at the Kyunetsa site, the footpath is joined consecutively by footpaths BN II<sub>3</sub> and BN III<sub>12</sub> coming from the "Bor" tourist hut on the left.

Before reaching Boeritsa, the footpath skirts a small mountain, after which it cuts across the upper part of the moraine inclined toward the Zlatnits Mostove site, crosses a good wooden bridge from which there is an excellent view toward Vladaya Pass, the Lyulin Mountains, and the far-away Yugoslav mountain chains.

The footpath emerges on the northern side of the "Boeritsa" forestry station, circles it, and continues to the "Malchika" tourist hut. The distance between Boeritsa and the "Malchika" tourist hut is 920 m, the incline is slight, and the walk through the forest is agreeable and easy.

The footpath from Knyazhevo to the "Malchika" tourist hut, particularly between Knyazhevo and the "Planinets" tourist hut, is

the most popular and widely used of all. In winter the snow is cleared from it and movement along it continues uninterrupted.

### Second Class Footpaths

#### From Kiselishte to the "Belite Brezi" tourist hut (KN IX<sub>1</sub>)

The footpath branches off toward the south at the curve near the 5 km mark on the Boyana-Zlatnits Mostove highway, and goes through the forest, following an old cart track. At the Kiselishte site, before crossing the Planinishka River, it is joined by the second class footpath (RD IX<sub>4</sub>) coming from the Durveniya Bridge site.

From the Planinishka River upwards, the footpath continues, without changing its original direction, through a young deciduous forest with small clearings, and after about 1,900 m, emerges again on the highway at the Brezite site, between the 7.900 km and 8.000 km markers.

Fifty meters east of the point where the footpath emerges on the highway the third class footpath KN III<sub>12</sub> begins, leading through the Obelski Geren site to the Zlatnits Mostove site.

At the Brezite site, the footpath crosses the highway, climbs along its southern side, passes the small wooden kiosk in the meadow above the fountain, and enters the yard of the tourist hut from the north.

The footpath from Kiselishte to Belite Brezi is widely used because it is considerably shorter than the route via the highway.

Malkoto Kopito-"Planinets" Tourist Hut (KN IIc)

The footpath from Malkoto Kopito to the "Planinets" tourist hut begins at the bridge on the highway facing the Rakovets forestry house on the right bank of the ravine bearing the same name. It crosses the new highway leading to the Belata Voda site and emerges at the fountain above the highway. About 50 m above the fountain, after it is joined by the third class footpath KN III<sub>1</sub> leading from the Semovitsa site to the Rakovets site, the footpath crosses the ravine to its other bank and begins to climb.

Here, after the second turning, the third class footpath KN III<sub>5</sub> branches off to the west, leading to the right to the Belata Voda site. The climb toward the peak winds in a series of serpentine curves which gradually become narrower and narrower.

Beyond the Malkoto Kopito site, the footpath continues through the forest to the south, is joined by the small third class footpath KN III<sub>6</sub> coming from the Malinarski road on the west, and emerges at the Krustovishteto site, where footpath KN III<sub>7</sub> branches off toward the Golyamoto Kopito site. Above the crossroads, the footpath emerges from the forest, crosses footpath KN II<sub>3</sub> leading to the "Mamina Skala" tourist hut, cuts through the Planinishki meadows, and across the Popadiya Height, and comes out on the first class footpath which leads from Knyazhevo to the "Malchika" tourist hut (KN I<sub>1</sub>). Then, following this footpath and then turning off onto second class footpath KN II<sub>4</sub>, it comes out at the northern side of the "Planinets" tourist hut.

The footpath from Malkoto Kopito to the "Planinets" tourist hut is rather steep in places, particularly in the first section of

the climb from Malkoto Kopito. Yet it is one of the most direct footpaths, and thus widely used by the hikers.

The footpath from the Rakovets forestry station on the highway to the "Planinets" tourist hut is 4.540 km, and the hike takes about 90 minutes.

Karpuzov Valog-"Momina Skala" Tourist Hut (KN II<sub>3</sub>)

This footpath starts on the ridge itself, at the Prozhektora site, branching off on the right from the first class footpath leading from Knyazhevo to "Malchika" (KN I<sub>1</sub>), directly after this latter footpath leaves the Karpuzov Valog site. From this point upward the footpath crosses the open Planinishki Meadows, leading southeast, which direction it generally follows until it emerges at the tourist hut.

The footpath emerges at the Bukara site at the Stulbovete site after cutting through the forest, and then, following the third class footpath KN II [numeral illegible], leads to the Preslopta site, where it joins its old route.

At the Preslopta site it is joined by the second class footpath BN II<sub>1</sub> (Semovitsa-Bukara) on its left. Then it passes through the forest at the Tunela site and emerges again in the meadows. Here, at this site, it turns to the south, and emerges in the meadows. Here, at this site, it turns to the south, and emerges in the meadows surrounding the "Momina Skala" tourist hut.

The length of the footpath is 2.100 km, and the hike takes about 50 minutes. In winter it may be used for skiing.

"Planinets" Tourist Hut-Zlatni Mostove (KN ID.)

The footpath from the "Planinets" tourist hut to the Zlatnite Mostove site begins near the fountain which is north of the tourist hut and follows the highway to the tourist hut. From the tourist hut it turns to the southwest, enters a young beech forest, and goes upward to the Beli Breg site and the Zlatnite Mostove site.

About 200 m from its beginning, the third class footpath KN III<sub>13</sub> leading to the "Belite Brezi" tourist hut branches off on the right to the southwest. After another 850 m the footpath crosses the small moraine which starts at the Mandrata site, turns from the south to the southwest, emerges on the highway leading from the Zlatnite Mostove to the "Bor" tourist hut, and follows it down to Beli Breg.

The Beli Breg site is quite well known among visitors to the park. It provides an excellent view of the "Dimitur Blagoev" tourist hut, the Military Rest Home (VVS) [Voenna vuzdushni sili, Air Force], the "Edelweys" tourist hut, etc. From here the Chernata Skala Peak, the Balabana ridge, the Boeritsa forestry station, the "Malchika" tourist hut, etc, can also be seen. The Beli Breg site is an important crossroad at which several footpaths begin. As we have already said, the highway from Zlatnite Mostove to the "Bor" tourist hut passes this way. Going due west one reaches the natural science station of the BAN (Bulgarska akademiya na naukite, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences). The third class footpath KN III<sub>12</sub> goes down to the north to the highway, and the third class footpath KN III<sub>10</sub> leading to the "Septemvri" tourist hut goes to the south-east.



At the Beli Brég site, the footpath leaves the highway and cuts through the meadow to the Zlatnite Mostove site over a broad and well traced track. At the Mochurlivata Idvada site it is joined by the second class footpath RD II [numeral illegible] coming from the "Belite Brezi" tourist hut on the west. It reaches the highway, and following it, passes the forest point and the fountain at the Geomagnetic station and then reaches the Zlatnite Mostove site.

The footpath leading from the "Planinets" tourist hut to the Zlatnite Mostove site is one of the most frequently traversed footpaths in the park. Well traced, having no great inclines, snow drifts, or strong winds, it bears almost constant traffic the year round.

It is 1.800 km long and can be traversed in 30 minutes.

### Third Class Footpaths

#### Cherniyat Kos-Noevetsa (KN III<sub>1</sub>)

This footpath is a direct link between these 2 sites. It is 3.130 km long.

#### Knyazhevo-Planinitsa River (the Durveniya Most site) KN III<sub>2</sub>

This footpath starts at the Aleksandrovski Bridge and extends to the Durveniya Most site on the Planinitsa River. From here, by means of the Planinitsa River-Rayko Daskalovo village footpath (RD III<sub>1</sub>), there is a direct connection between Knyazhevo and Rayko Daskalovo, parallel to the highway. This path is 1.750 km long.

Footpath from the Balkoncheto Site to the Golyamata Livada Site (KN III<sub>3</sub>):

This footpath is only 90 m long. It connects the first class footpath from Knyazhevo to the "Malchika" tourist hut (KN I<sub>1</sub>) with the third class footpath (KN III<sub>4</sub>) which leads from the Albanetsa site to the Golyama Livada site.

Albanetsa-Golyama Livada (KN III<sub>4</sub>):

This footpath is the most direct route between the Belata Voda site and the Golyama Livada site. Starting at the Golyama Livada site, it passes the volley-ball grounds and is linked by the highway with the second class footpath KN II<sub>1</sub> which leads from Kiselishte to the "Belite Brezi" tourist hut. It can also be used as a link between the Belite Brezi site and the Belata Voda site. The length of the footpath, from its beginning to the Golyama Livada site, is 970 m.

Rakovets-Belata Voda (KN III<sub>5</sub>):

This footpath was laid out to relieve pedestrian traffic on the highway between the Rakovets ravine and the Belata Voda site. It is also known as the Korchevata path. It is 1.740 km long.

Malinarski Road-The Footpath Through the Malkoto Kopito Site (KN III<sub>6</sub>):

This is also a small connecting footpath, only 170 m long. Its purpose is to permit hikers to get from the Malinarski road to the Malkoto Kopito footpath.

Krustovishteto-Golyameto Kopito (KN III<sub>7</sub>)

This footpath is 970 m long. Those traveling along the Malkoto Kopito-"Planinets" tourist hut footpath toward the "Momina Skala" tourist hut may use branch KN III<sub>7</sub>, which will lead them to the Golyameto Kopito site. From there, by following third class footpath KN III<sub>8</sub>, they will reach the Bukara site, and finally the "Momina Skala" tourist hut.

Golyameto Kopito-Bukara (KN III<sub>8</sub>)

This is a footpath 1.015 km long with a broad view. It is used by hikers making the trip to Golyameto Kopito Peak, from which a nice scenic view opens out toward Sofia and the Sofia Plain.

"Planinets" Tourist Hut-"Momina Skala" Tourist Hut (KN III<sub>9</sub>)

The footpath from the "Planinets" tourist hut to the "Momina Skala" tourist hut is an intermediary one and also links second class footpaths KN II<sub>4</sub> and EN II<sub>4</sub>, which lead to the Zlatnite Mostove site and to the "Bor" tourist hut. For the most part it follows the high electric wires. It is 1.070 km long.

Beli Breg-"Septemvri" Tourist Hut (KN III<sub>10</sub>)

This leads off from the Beli Breg site, where third class footpath (KN III<sub>12</sub>) leads off to the Obelski Geren site. It is 640 m long. It is used mainly for the descent from this tourist hut to the Zlatnite Mostove site.

"Planinets" Tourist Hut-Raztovarishteto Site (KN III<sub>11</sub>)

The footpath from the "Planinets" tourist hut to the Raztovarishteto site serves as the link between the tourist hut and

the highway leading to the Zlatnite Mostove site. It allows hikers who have reached the "Planinets" tourist hut through the Malinarski road or the Karpuzov Valog site to return to Knyazhevo via the highway. It is 920 m long.

Obelski Geren-Beli Breg (KN III<sub>12</sub>)

This footpath branches off the highway to the Zlatnite Mostove at the Brezite site. It begins at the km 7.900 marker and goes south. It considerably shortens the route for the hikers going along the Zlatnite Mostove highway. It is 1.250 km long. It is particularly convenient for those going from the Beli Breg site toward the highway.

"Planinets" Tourist Hut-"Belite Brezi" Tourist Hut (KN III<sub>13</sub>)

This footpath passes the Obelski Geren site, where it intersects third class footpath (KN III<sub>12</sub>). It links the 2 tourist huts mentioned. It is 1.200 km long.

FROM THE BOYANA (BN) STARTING POINT

(Boyana is a small sub mountain settlement with a cultural club, a theater hall, and a farm workers' cooperative. The Boyana Falls, famous for their beauty, are 2.5 km above it along the Boyanska River.

(The Boyana settlement has existed since ancient times, as evidenced by the ruins of the old "Batil" fort as well as by the many legends connected with the fort.

(The settlement contains the historical church, "Sveti Panteleymon," which has been studied by many Bulgarian scientists.

The church was built in 1259, during the reign of Konstantin Asen. Valuable murals dating from that period have been discovered on one of its walls. These are the best preserved wall drawing of the thirteenth century in Bulgarian territory.)

Boyana village is 7.500 km to the southwest of Sofia and its average altitude is 750 m. It is linked with the capital by a street car line and a paved highway.

The trip is made by street car No 5, starting from Lenin Square. A transfer is made to street car No 8 at Pavlovo, on the way to Boyana.

Street cars operate from Lenin Square to Boyana uninterruptedly between 0455 hours and 0030 hours.

The connection at the Pavlovo stop is regular, and the service is reliable. The trip lasts about 35 minutes, 20 to 25 minutes of which are from Sofia to Pavlovo and 10 minutes from Pavlovo to Boyana.

The last passenger coach starts from Boyana to Sofia at 0030 hours.

The Boyana-Zlatnitsa Mostovo highway starts at Boyana.

#### First Class Footpath

##### Boyana-"Sredets" Tourist Hut-"Tintyava" Tourist Hut (BN 12)

Length of the path	5.870 km
Climb	866 m
Average gradient	15%
Duration of climb	3 hours

The footpath starts in the southern part of the settlement, at the last curve in the highway leading to the protected zone above the settlement, and immediately enters the park. First it goes southeast for about 300 m, then turns to the southwest and begins to climb in hairpin turns along northern forested slope of the mountain. In this sector the gradients are very great and the march on the alley is comparatively difficult.

At the fifth turn in the footpath, which is at the Sukhi Vrukh site, third class footpath BN III<sub>4</sub> leading to the Boyansko Lake branches off to the south leading down small wooden steps, while the first class footpath continues to climb. After 2 more turns, third class footpath BN III<sub>5</sub> goes off from the Dolna Magarishtitsa site to the east. It also leads to Boyana Lake and is considerably less steep than the first footpath. Signs have not been placed at the first or at the second turnoffs since the lake is a rarely frequented tourist area.

From the Dolna Magarishtitsa site, the footpath continues to climb through the forest in broad curves and leaves the forest at the Yanevitsa site. Zhultata Skala Peak looms to the right of the Yanevitsa meadow, while Boyansko Lake lies below it on the left. The Yanevitsa meadow is a beautiful and convenient place to rest, but it has no water, so stops here are rare and short. On the southeastern edge of the meadow a second class footpath leads off to the "Kamen Del" tourist hut -- BN II<sub>2</sub>. From here the main path continues to the south, and some 80-100 m into the forest, turns to the east and then to the south. To the right of the turn is a platform on steep Borova Skala Rock; from it a beautiful view of the valley of the Boyanska River and of Sofia opens out.

Two hundred to 250 m from the Borova Skala site the footpath crosses the Petrovichka River, makes an almost 90° turn and goes first to the west and then to the southwest. Before the turn is a small stone fountain on the right of the path and in the rocks 20 m above it, a spring. These are the first sources of water that the hiker comes across along the footpath. Immediately across the river is the "Chudnata Ela" and on the right are yew trees. Both sites are described on page 18 of the guide.

At the Drenska Skala site, where the footpath turns from the southwest to the southeast, a second class footpath, BN II<sub>4</sub>, goes off to the Boyana Falls and the "Momina Skala" tourist hut. From Drenska Skala, going southeast, the footpath follows along above the fountain at the Svinyovete site and continues to wind upward. The fountain is located 50 m below the footpath, but it is marked by a sign, and a special path leads to it. At the 3.600 km marker at the Svinyovete site, third class footpath BN III<sub>6</sub> leads off to the "Kamen Del" tourist hut. The first class footpath, 500 m farther on, comes out at the Karanova Livada site.

The Karanova Livada site is an important crossroads. A fountain has been built and benches and tables have been set up. On the eastern edge of the meadow, to the left of the fountain, starts third class footpath BN III<sub>7</sub> leading to the "Kamen Del" tourist hut, while on the right, third class footpath BN III<sub>15</sub> leads off to the southwest to the "Momina Skala" tourist hut. The "Sredets" tourist hut is south of the fountain, at the Karanova Livada site 1,080 m distant. First the footpath leading to it passes through a forest, gradually inclining upwards, for about 800 m, then it leaves the forest, crossing a meadow covered with juniper trees and comes out at the "Sredets"

tourist hut exactly at the northwestern corner of the building itself. On the right and to the northwest is the end of third class footpath BN III<sub>14</sub> leading from the "Mamina Skala" to the "Sredets" tourist huts, while a little higher up, on the southwest, third class footpath BN III<sub>10</sub> leading from the "Sredets" to the "Rodina" tourist huts branches off.

In addition, second class footpath BN II<sub>2</sub> starts eastward to the "Kamen Del" tourist hut from the court yard of the "Sredets" tourist hut.

Beyond the "Sredets" tourist hut, the footpath continues to the south through an almost totally bare and open region, passes the playgrounds, and emerges east of the "Tintyava" tourist hut.

The footpath from Boyana to the "Sredets" tourist hut and the "Tintyava" tourist hut is an old and popular footpath. It is usable by hikers the year round, but it is more favored in winter since most of its length lies through a forest, and it is thus sheltered from the wind.

The open part below the "Sredets" tourist hut is covered with snow in winter but it is a first class alley, the snow is cleared away regularly, and traffic along it is uninterrupted.

#### Second Class Footpaths

##### Boyana-Semovitza-Bukara (BN II<sub>1</sub>)

The Boyana-Semovitza-Bukara footpath begins at the highway to the restricted zone in the southern part of the settlement, exactly opposite the young pine forest at the Semovitza site. It crosses the wooden bridge over the Boyanska River and enters the



pine forest. In the forest it makes a wide arc, passes the kiosk at the Pozhara site, and emerges on the right bank of the Gusheva Bara ravine. Here third class footpath BN III<sub>1</sub> branches off to the new highway at the Rakovets site and to the Belata Voda and Golyama Livada sites.

Then this second class footpath goes almost due south along a horse cart track to the Tri Kladentsi site, where, on the right, a fountain has been built, and it is convenient to rest. A little farther along, it leaves the road at the Razkruska site, and following the left bank of the Gusheva Bara ravine, comes out at the Komina site, where it turns and climbs up the slope. About 100 m above the turn it passes the fountain at the Lisichi Dupki site.

Beyond the Lisichi Dupki site it continues to climb in narrow, successive hairpin turns after every straight stretch of 100 to 150 m; after passing the Turboshaka, Golemiya Kamuk and Izvoza sites, it comes out at the Dolna Cheresha site, after which it follows the cart track for a short stretch. At the Golemiya Kamuk site is a spring which gives pure drinking water throughout most of the year.

From the Dolna Cheresha site, the footpath makes a wide arc first toward the east and then to the south and passes the Elata site. There it turns toward the Gorna Cheresha site and approaches it on a rather steep incline. Beyond it the footpath goes west, cuts across the moraine at the Leskite site, and upon reaching the lower right flank of the Golyamoto Kopito site, turns due south. Third class footpath BN III<sub>19</sub> shoots off to the right and to the northwest 60 to 80 m beyond the turn. This footpath leads to the Golyamoto Kopito site and from there to the Malkoto Kopito site and

the Malinarski road. Farther on the footpath turns to the south, makes a hairpin turn to gain altitude, and passing the Chukanov well, emerges at the Bukara site where it joins second class footpath KN II<sub>3</sub>, coming from the Karpuzioviyat Valog site.

The Boyana-Semovitsa-Bukara footpath is a direct one laid out to facilitate hikes from Boyana to the "Planinets" and "Mamina Skala" tourist huts. It was laid out during 1954 and 1955. It is 560 m [sic] long and it takes 1 hour and 50 minutes to traverse it.

Yanevitsa-"Kamen Del" Tourist Hut-"Sredets" Tourist Hut  
(BN II<sub>0</sub>)

The Yanevitsa-Kamen Del-Sredets second class footpath branches off from the first class Boyana-"Tintyava" tourist hut footpath at the Yanevitsa site, above Boyana Lake. Up to the "Kamen Del" tourist hut, it is steep and leads in a generally southeasterly direction. First it goes through a tunnel of young deciduous trees, then crosses the Pavlovo site and leads to the Bukite site, where a fountain has been built and there are facilities for rest.

Leading toward the southeast at a rather steep gradient, the footpath passes the Golata Skala site, where it makes a wide turn and leads due south. Here too are 2 fountains near one another. From this point the footpath turns to the southwest, crosses the Boyana water conduit, and emerges at the Kolev Geren site.

From the Kolev Geren site it goes straight south, leaves the forest, and enters the meadows below the "Kamen Del" tourist hut, where it is joined by the third class Karanova Livada-"Kamen Del" tourist hut footpath (BN III<sub>7</sub>), which comes from the west. Together the 2 alleys enter the yard of the tourist hut.

The third class "Kamen Del" tourist hut-Kikish site footpath (BN III<sub>8</sub>) branches off to the southeast of the tourist hut, while the second class footpath makes a turn above the tourist hut, and goes off to the southwest and toward the "Sredets" tourist hut. Here again it crosses the water conduct between the Kamanno [stone] building and Boyana and the ravine leading to the Govedarnika site. It follows the left bank, turns through a small moraine, and then goes straight south to a point about 200 m short of the "Sredets" tourist hut. Here the third class "Sredets" tourist hut-Kikish site (BN III<sub>9</sub>) footpath branches off. The second class footpath continues to the northwest to the yard of the "Sredets" tourist hut at the southeastern end of the yard.

The second class Yanevitsa-Kamen Del-Sredets footpath connects the Boyana and Dragalevtzi sectors of the Vitosha Mountains via the third class "Kamen Del" tourist hut-Kikish site footpath BN III<sub>8</sub> and the "Sredets" tourist hut-Kikish site path BN III<sub>9</sub>.

The footpath is 2.950 km long. It takes 80 minutes to traverse it.

"Bor" Tourist Hut-The "Boeritsa Forestry Station" (Across the Balabana Ridge (BN II<sub>3</sub>))

This footpath is a new one laid out during the summer of 1954. It starts on the southeastern side of the tourist hut, skirts the building, cuts toward the west along the upper reaches of the Boyanska River, and crosses to its left bank. At this point it is joined by the third class footpath (BN III<sub>11</sub>) coming from the "Septemvri" tourist hut. From here it goes to the southwest through a young coniferous forest, cuts through a swamp, and arrives at the

Prozoretza site below the Balabana. Farther on it parallels the ridge for a while, then turns to the south and cuts across it. At the crossing point is a broad, unobstructed view of much of the park.

After crossing the ridge, the footpath goes southeast through a coniferous forest, then cuts across a small moraine where drinking water can be found, and gradually turns toward the south. Below the Chernata Skala Peak it leads through the coniferous forest, crosses the Kymetza ravine and emerges at the first class Knyazhevo-"Malchika" tourist hut footpath (KN I<sub>1</sub>) and follows it to the "Boeritsa" forestry station.

The "Bor" tourist hut-"Boeritsa" footpath has almost no gradient. It is a truly circuitous footpath which is now being used considerably more than the footpath between the 2 above-mentioned points which passes the Chernata Skala Peak.

This footpath is 1.950 km long, and it takes about 50 minutes to traverse it.

Drenska Skala-"Momina Skala" Tourist Hut-"Bor" Tourist Hut  
(BN I<sub>2</sub>)

The footpath leading to the "Momina Skala" tourist hut and the "Bor" tourist hut is a branch of the first class Boyana-"Sredets" tourist hut-"Tintyava" tourist hut (BN I<sub>2</sub>) footpath. It branches off from the first path at the Drenska Skala site about 3 km from the beginning of that footpath in Boyana. It climbs toward the southwest high on the right bank of the Boyanska River, through a deciduous forest of moderate age. At first it is quite rocky and disagreeable to the hiker, but later the surface changes to soil and the path improves.

Approximately 460 m from its beginning the footpath emerges on a high and open space, where third class footpath BN III<sub>16</sub>, which passes the falls, branches off from its right side toward the west. Eighty meters higher up it joins the footpath leading to the "Momina Skala" tourist hut again. The distance from the Boyana Falls to the "Momina Skala" tourist hut is about 1,400 m. Formerly the old footpath was steep and tiring beyond this point, but in the autumn 1954 it was retraced and changed. Now from the falls to the Gazhovitza site, where a small fountain and rest facilities are located, the climb is easy, with wide smooth curves.

The third class footpath (BN III<sub>18</sub>) from Gazhovitza to the Karanova Livada site turns off to the east at the Gazhovitza site, while that leading to the "Momina Skala" and "Bor" tourist huts leaves the forest, crosses the meadow, and emerges at the bridge over the Boyanska River east of the "Momina Skala" tourist hut. At the upper end of the meadow above the hut it is joined by the third class footpath (BN III<sub>15</sub>) which comes from the Karanova Livada site.

From the "Momina Skala" tourist hut upwards the footpath follows a wide old track in a southerly direction toward the "Rodina" tourist hut. Before coming to the hut, the footpath crosses the Zlatnite Mostove-"Bor" tourist hut highway and enters the yard of the hut from the northeast. Beyond the "Rodina" tourist hut it cuts across the highway again, goes up the stone steps to the "Tintyava" tourist hut, and enters the yard.

From the "Tintyava" tourist hut the footpath turns to the southwest, and mounting a slight rise, comes out at the "Bor" tourist hut.

The Drenskata Skala-Tintyava-Bor footpath is a major branch of the first class Boyana-Sredets-Tintyava footpath. It is used quite often and many hikers prefer to go up or down it instead of going via the "Sredets" tourist hut.

The footpath is 2.9 km long. It takes 75 minutes to traverse it.

### Third Class Footpaths

#### Semovitsa-Rakovets (BN III<sub>1</sub>)

This branches off from the second class Boyana-Semovitsa-Bukara footpath (BN II<sub>1</sub>). It is 1.8 km long. It serves to link the Semovitsa, Rakovets, and Belata Voda sites.

#### Svetata Voda-Boyana Lake (BN III<sub>2</sub>)

This footpath is new and is part of the planned Boyana-Kikish footpath going via Boyana Lake. This will establish a connection between the Dragalavtsi and Boyana sectors of the Vitosha Mountains. This path is 1.560 km long.

#### Boyana-Shilestiya Kamuk Site-Boyana Lake (BN III<sub>3</sub>)

This is the oldest route to Boyana Lake. The footpath is open and in places is quite steep and rocky. It is used mainly for the descent from the lake. It is 2.2 km long.

#### Sukhi Vrukh-Boyana Lake (BN III<sub>4</sub>)

Calculated from Boyana, the length of the alley is 1.5 km. It connects the Boyana-"Tintyava" tourist hut path (BN I<sub>2</sub>) with Boyana Lake. This is the steepest and shortest footpath to the lake.

Dolna Magarishtitsa-Boyana Lake (BN III<sub>5</sub>)

This footpath also leads to the lake. It branches off from the first class Boyana-"Tintyava" tourist hut footpath at the Dolna Magarishtitsa site. Unlike the preceding ones, this path has no gradient at all and is horizontal. It is mainly used in winter when the footpath BN III<sub>4</sub> becomes icy. Calculated from Boyana, its length is about 1.7 km.

Svinyovets-"Kamen Del" Tourist Hut (BN III<sub>6</sub>)

This branches off from the first class Boyana-"Tintyava" tourist hut footpath at the Svinyovets site. It is used by visitors to the hut who, in coming from Boyana, do not wish to follow the second class Yanevitsa-"Kamen Del" tourist hut path (BN II<sub>2</sub>) because of its steepness. This alley is 640 m long.

Karanova Livada-"Kamen Del" Tourist Hut (BN III<sub>7</sub>)

This is a branch of the first class Boyana-"Tintyava" tourist hut footpath. It branches off toward the east at the Karanova Livada site. It is 630 m long. Together with the Karanova Livada-"Mamina Skala" tourist hut footpath (BN III<sub>15</sub>) it forms the shortest route between these 2 tourist huts.

"Kamen Del" Tourist Hut-Kikish (BN III<sub>8</sub>)

This footpath is 1.4 km long. It begins east of the tourist hut and is used as a link between the Dragalevtsi and Boyana sectors of the Vitosha Mountains.

"Sredets" Tourist Hut-Kikish Site (BN III<sub>9</sub>)

This footpath branches off from the second class Yanevitsa-Kamen Del-Sredets footpath (BN II<sub>2</sub>) east of the "Sredets" tourist hut. It is 1.020 km long and joins the "Kamen Del" tourist hut, Kikish site footpath BN III<sub>8</sub>. It is the shortest connection between the Brezovitsa forestry station and the "Sredets" tourist hut.

"Sredets"-"Rodina" (BN III<sub>10</sub>)

The footpath from the "Sredets" tourist hut to the "Rodina" tourist hut is quite short. To the turn in the newly abuilding highway, it is 270 m.

"Septemvri"-"Bor" (BN III<sub>11</sub>)

This footpath begins 50-60 m to the southwest of the "Septemvri" tourist hut. It is a branch of the first class Knyazhevo-"Malchika" tourist hut footpath (KN I<sub>1</sub>). It is straight, makes no turns, and has only an insignificant and gradual incline. It, along with third class footpath KN III<sub>10</sub>, forms the most direct connection between the "Bor" tourist hut and the Zlatnite Mostove site. It is 1.160 km long.

"Bor" Tourist Hut-"Boeritsa" Forestry Station (Via the Chernata Skala Peak) (BN III<sub>12</sub>)

This footpath is the oldest link between the "Bor" tourist hut and the "Boeritsa" forest house, but since the construction of second class footpath BN II<sub>3</sub> over the Balabana ridge, the traffic along it has decreased considerably. It is 2.550 km long.



Zlatnits Mostova Highway-"Septemvri" Tourist Hut (BN III<sub>13</sub>)

This footpath connects the highway with the "Septemvri" tourist hut and shortens the route to this tourist hut from the "Momina Skala" tourist hut. During the early spring and in autumn the footpath is flooded and cannot be used. It is 300 m long.

"Momina Skala"- "Sredets" (BN III<sub>14</sub>)

This is a straight footpath with no turns and a relatively slight gradient. Its general direction is northwest to southeast. It is 780 m long. It is important only as a link between the 2 tourist huts.

Karanova Livada-"Momina Skala" Tourist Hut (BN III<sub>15</sub>)

This is an intermediary footpath connecting the first class Boyana-"Sredets" tourist hut-"Tintyava" tourist hut footpath (BN I<sub>2</sub>) and the second class footpath which comes from Boyana via the Boyana Falls (BN II<sub>4</sub>). It crosses the Gashovitsa meadow. It is 490 m long.

Boyana Falls (BN III<sub>16</sub>)

This footpath is known as the Falls footpath. It is a small side footpath which takes visitors below the falls, then above them, and then joins the footpath leading to the "Momina Skala" tourist hut again. In some places the footpath is quite steep. Its overall length is 370 m.

Boyana Falls-Skakavets Site (BN III<sub>17</sub>)

The footpath from the Boyana Falls to the Skakavets site branches off the falls path BN III<sub>16</sub>, crosses the Boyanska River

and emerges in the Skakavets Meadows. An old cart track leads from the Skakavets Meadows to the "Momina Skala" tourist hut. This footpath has been marked only as far as the meadows and is 380 m long.

Gazhovitza-Karanova Livada (BN III<sub>18</sub>)

This footpath serves as a link between footpath BN II<sub>4</sub> leading to the "Momina Skala" tourist hut and footpath BN II<sub>2</sub> leading to the "Sredets" tourist hut. It begins at the Gazhovitza fountain and ends above the Karanova Livada fountain. Its entire length lies through a forest. It is 510 m long.

Cheresha-Golyamoto Kopito (BN III<sub>19</sub>)

The Cheresha-Golyamoto Kopito footpath branches off from the second class Boyana-Semovitsa-Bukara (BN II<sub>1</sub>) footpath. Its purpose is to take hikers from the first footpath to Golyamoto Kopito Peak. Tourists who have come this way may continue to the "Momina Skala" tourist hut or to the "Planinets" tourist hut via third class footpath KN III<sub>9</sub> leading from Golyamoto Kopito to Bukara.

STARTING POINT DRAGALEVTSI VILLAGE (RD)

(Dragalevtsi is one of the largest sub Vitosha Mountain villages. It is on the deposit cone of the Dragalevska River. It is a resort settlement. With its regular autobus line, Dragalevtsi is in fact a sector of Sofia. In almost all of the village one can see small but nice and solidly built houses. However it is lagging in its city planning. The city regulation plan has not been applied. The water supply is inadequate.

(The highway leading to the "Aleko" tourist hut goes through Dragalevtsi. A street car line to the settlement will be built in

the very near future. A new cable car line was built between Dragalevtsi and the Vitosha Mountains in 1955. The lower lift station is about one km from the present autobus station in the village. The upper one is below the Bay Krustyo shelter.)

Dragalevtsi village is in the northern foothills of the Vitosha Mountains, 7 km south of Sofia. Its average altitude is 750 m.

The trip to Dragalevtsi is made by bus. The bus starts from the square in front of the Pioneers' Palace. A bus stop is at the beginning of the "Anton Ivanov" Boulevard.

The first coach leaves for Dragalevtsi at 0510 and the last one leaves Dragalevtsi at 2130. During the day coaches leave Sofia every hour on the hour, and leave Dragalevtsi every hour on the half hour. The trip takes 15 to 20 minutes.

#### First Class Footpath

##### Dragalevtsi-"Aleko" Tourist Hut (DR I<sub>3</sub>)

Length of the footpath	7 km
Climb	1,050 m
Average gradient	15%
Hiking time	3 1/2 hours

The Dragalevtsi-"Aleko" tourist hut footpath is one of the oldest hikers' paths and now one of the most heavily used. First old cart tracks and steep paths were used. Since then, particularly during the last 2 or 3 years, many corrections have been made. The gradient was decreased and the condition of the footpath was improved.

The hikers' footpath begins at the bus stop located by the bridge over the Dragalevska River at the lower end of the village. The footpath follows the left bank of the river upstream, crosses the deposit cone of the river, enters the forest below the monastery, and crosses to the right bank of the river by the highway bridge. There is also another footpath, DR II<sub>3</sub>, which follows the left bank of the river, passes the lower lift station at the site of the future restaurant, and comes out at the above mentioned bridge. The first footpath passes the fountain at the Marvovets site as soon as it is out of the village.

From the bridge upwards the main footpath follows the river for about 1,200 m; then it turns sharply to the left, follows the slope of the mountain, some 500 m farther on emerges at the Golyamo Gradishte site. This section has 2 other auxiliary footpaths -- one from the right bank of the river to the highway, and one to the left of the main footpath following along the ridge of the Gradishteto site.

The auxiliary footpath on the right side of the river, DR II<sub>3</sub>, passes through some quite picturesque places. First it follows the river, passes many whirlpools, small water falls and rapids. Then, after a series of steps, it passes the pool beside the river, enters a thick juniper forest, and emerges at the fountain at the Pasha Bunar site. Continuing straight ahead after the flight of steps is a footpath leading to the Yankini Padini, Zeleni Del, and Kikish sites. The auxiliary footpath, after passing to the left of the water supply zone, becomes steeper in gradient and leads through a young juniper and pine forest with scattered birch trees to the Belenski fountain where there are good resting facilities. Then it crosses the river; at the small Nankovo well, it joins the main footpath.

The second auxiliary footpath, DR II<sub>6</sub>, which passes to the left of the main path to the Gradishteto site, is much steeper, despite the hairpin turns it makes before emerging on top at the Gradishteto site. It crosses under the cable-car line several times and along its entire length provides a nice view of Sofia and the Sofia plain. After emerging on top it goes 200-300 m through the meadow and joins the main footpath.

Higher up the main footpath it crosses the highway and goes through one of the widest meadows and most agreeable rest sites. It is covered with larger or smaller groups of beech trees. Here are 4 rest sites equipped with fountains, tables, benches, and fire places.

After passing the shelter, the footpath crosses the highway once again and enters a thick pine forest through which, in several hairpin turns, it reaches the fountain at the Vulchata Skala site and some 300 m farther on, the Alekova Fountain. Then the footpath cuts across the Brezovitsa-Petrov Grob-Platoto ridge and appears above the Romanski monument. Making an arc, it leads through beautiful small meadows and valleys and enters the yard of the tourist hut from the west. There is another, auxiliary footpath, going to the tourist hut from the Alekova Fountain, DR II<sub>7</sub>. It passes the Petrov Grob site and then, with a change in incline, joins the main footpath above the Romanski monument.

The sector along the footpath between the "Bay Krusty" shelter and the tourist hut is very agreeable in summer, but in winter the trip is made quite difficult by deep snow and blizzards. That is why hikers prefer the trip by the highway in winter, via the Brezovitsa forestry station and the Romanski monument from

which they go to the tourist hut via the Romanski-"Aleko" tourist hut footpath.

The Dragalevtsi-"Aleko" tourist hut footpath is cleared of snow and in winter is convenient for hiking, except along the section between the shelter and the Alekova Fountain. It is not suitable for skiing. However a ski path, ending at the lower lift station at Dragalevtsi, is nearby.

In rainy weather the footpath does not become muddy, except around the Gradishteto site and the shelter, where it crosses open meadows.

#### Second Class Footpaths

##### Dragalevtsi-The Monastery (DR II)

The footpath is 600 m long and its gradient is between 10 and 15%. It is the most agreeable and convenient hikers' path to the Dragalevtsi Monastery. It was laid out in 1955.

This footpath branches off the main Dragalevtsi-"Aleko" tourist hut hikers' footpath (DR I<sub>3</sub>) where it enters the forest. It leads off to the right and goes to the northeast. It is convenient and agreeable for hiking, has a well leveled surface, and emerges at the monastery after only one hairpin turn. Passing through a tall and beautiful hornbeam forest, it crosses a beautiful forest meadow after its first turn. Above it are rest facilities which can be reached by a narrow path. The path then continues through the forest; before emerging in the meadow at the monastery it splits in 2. The right branch leads directly to the restaurant, while the left one, which is shorter and steeper, emerges at the meadow located to the right of the highway in front of the restaurant.

Dragalevtzi-Kikish-Platoto (DR IIc)

The Dragalevtzi-Kikish-Platoto footpath begins at the fountain at the Pasha Bunar site. This place is reached via the Dragalevtzi-"Aleko" tourist hut footpath. Between the Pasha Bunar site and the Kikish site the footpath goes up a few steps with a decorative railing, passes in short hairpin turns through a juniper forest, then through a mixed deciduous forest, and emerges by the fountain at the Yankini Padini site, 20 m below the highway. The fountain at the Yankini Padini site is unique, it is built in provincial style, and has tables and benches around it for rest.

Beyond the fountain and 10 m above it, the footpath crosses the highway leading to the "Aleko" tourist hut, re-enters the forest and immediately turns sharply to the left, at almost a right angle. It then parallels the highway and after some 100 m turns to the right and starts upwards along the slope toward Kikish. Here the footpath twists in almost continual hairpin turns, crosses the Zeleni Del meadow, and continues with broader curves to emerge at the Kikish site.

The Kikish site is one of the nicer places to visit -- it is a broad, open meadow with an excellent view and many flowers.

Exactly on top of the ridge, the footpath leading to the Platoto site branches off to the south from the upper part of the meadow, while the footpath from the Yankini Padini site continues in its old southwesterly direction toward the "Kamen Del" and "Sredets" tourist huts (BN IIIg). After following this route for about 200 m, one comes to a fountain with very cold drinking water.

The Kikish-Platoto footpath starts with a slight and pleasant gradient, crossing the meadow almost in the middle. About 300 m farther on the gradient increases and the view changes.

At the Vodnata Skala site, about 1,500 m from the Kikish site, a short footpath branches off to the left toward the Orlovo Gnezdo site (DR III<sub>10</sub>), and 900 m farther on joins the footpath leading to the Platoto site again.

Nearing the Platoto site, the footpath follows a rare and beautiful gorge between the rocks, turns in an arc up a very steep slope above the left hand tributary of the Dragalevska River, crosses the tributary, which looks like a mountain stream here, and about 100 m farther on emerges at the footpath leading from the Kominite Peak to the Platoto site (DR II<sub>6</sub>). The footpath has an exceptionally alpine character in this section and presents a splendid view toward the Kominite site and the Dragalevska River pass.

The trip along this footpath is agreeable, but there is an inconvenience; drinking water is not frequently found along it. From the Kikish site to the tributary of the Dragalevska River there is water at only one place, and this dries up during the hot summer months. In winter the upper part of the footpath is inaccessible due to the deep snow drifts and blizzards.

The footpath is 6.820 km long and the trip takes 3 hours.

Note: In addition to the footpath described above, another auxiliary footpath, DR III<sub>2</sub>, leads to the Kikish site. It starts at the Buyaka site and emerges at the fountain.



Second class footpaths DR II<sub>3</sub> and DR II<sub>4</sub> were described along with first class footpath DR I<sub>3</sub> (from Dragalevtzi village to the "Aleko" tourist hut).

Kikish-The "Bay Krustyo" Shelter (DR II<sub>5</sub>)

This footpath is a part of the mid-mountain circumference footpath, which goes from the "Sredets" tourist hut to the Kikish site and continues to the "Bay Krustyo" shelter, the highway to the "Aleko" tourist hut and the Brezovitsa-~~[illegible]~~ footpath. It is ~~[number illegible]~~ m long and is almost level, with slight climbs and dips. The footpath begins a short distance before the first turn enroute from the Kikish site to the monastery, goes in an east-southeasterly direction through a mixed deciduous forest, cuts across 2 large moraines which are steeply inclined toward the highway above the monastery. Then, following its old direction, it appears above the Dragalevska River pass.

At the rocks above the river pass, the footpath turns to the south toward the Kominite Peaks, and passes, between steep rocks, along the only small, narrow terrace there is. Then it continues to the south to where the river's 2 tributaries merge. It crosses them via small, neat bridges, and goes along above the right bank of the river toward the north-northeast. It has a slight upward gradient toward the shelter. It crosses moraines and forests of various types of trees; then it turns east and emerges at the highway to the "Aleko" tourist hut at the turn by the "Bay Krustyo" shelter itself.

Lovers of alpine nature take real pleasure in the trip along this footpath.

"Bay Krustyo" Shelter-Kominite-Platoto (DR II6)

The Kominite Peaks are the most important and it would sometimes seem, the only objectives in the Vitosha Mountains of interest to mountain climbers. Until 4 or 5 years ago no path lead to them. They could be reached only by a goat path which followed the river. Now they can be reached from the Kikish site and from the "Bay Krustyo" shelter by way of comfortable, interesting, and pleasant footpaths.

The "Bay Krustyo" shelter-Kominite-Platoto footpath begins at the sharp turn in the highway above the shelter. Two small hairpin turns give it altitude as it goes off to the south-southwest, high above the Dragalevska River. The footpath passes through a forest of mixed coniferous and deciduous vegetation. In some places it crosses small moraines and overhangs the river. All along the way the hiker can see the alpine view of the Kominite and, on the other side of the river, high perpendicular rocks. High above the rocks the hiker can see the Orlovo Glezdo, and above it, the body of Kamen Del Peak. Without hairpins or turns the footpath winds along the folds of the slope to the river, crosses a small bridge, and after a short hairpin turn, climbs into the foothills of the Kominite Peaks. The footpath to this point is 1,000 m long and had an average gradient of 15%. From there on up to the Platoto site, the footpath follows a deep, steep valley to the left of the Kominite Peaks, and is typically alpine in appearance. In beautiful hairpins it climbs till the hiker has imperceptibly reached the upper end of the Kominite ridge from which a splendid view opens out toward the valley of the Dragalevska River, Kikish, Orlovo Gnezdo, and Kamen Del.

The footpath climbs to the plateau in short, steep hairpins over a flat, steep fir covered slope. It emerges high above the Kominite, on a slanting meadow at the foot of the Platoto site. Here it is joined by the second class footpath coming from the Kikish site to the Platoto site (DR II<sub>2</sub>).

After the merger of the 2 footpaths they turn south, and the gradient becomes considerably less. Crossing an open meadow thickly planted with firs, the footpath joins another footpath -- the "Tintyava" tourist hut-"Aleko" tourist hut-Cherni Vrukh Peak path -- to the left of the "Ushite" shelter at about 1,100 m.

The footpath was laid out between 1952 and 1954. It is 2.6 km long. The trip takes 1 hour and 40 minutes.

### Third Class Footpaths

#### Dragalevski Monastery-Boyana Lake (DR III<sub>1</sub>)

The Dragalevski Monastery-Boyana Lake footpath is part of the lower mountain circumference footpath. It is an excellent hiking route for one-day trips. It is 3.4 km long.

#### Buyaka-Kikish-Platoto (DR III<sub>2</sub>)

This footpath leads off from the Buyaka site above the Dragalevski Monastery and joins the second class Dragalevtsi-Kikish-Platoto footpath at the fountain.

#### Monastery-Cheshmata-Kikish (DR III<sub>3</sub>)

This is a small connecting footpath between the second class Dragalevtsi-Kikish-Platoto footpath (DR II<sub>2</sub>) and the third class Buyaka-Kikish-Platoto footpath (DR III<sub>2</sub>). It crosses the steep moraine below the Zeleni Del site.

Dragalevski Monastery-Buyaka (DR III<sub>4</sub>)

This footpath passes through a nice pine forest. It is 460 m long.

Dragalevski Monastery-Buyaka-Kikish (DR III<sub>5</sub>)

This footpath connects the monastery and the Kikish site, passing through the Buyaka site. The length of the footpath, from the monastery to the Buyaka site, is 440 m.

Dragalevski Monastery-The Highway Above Belenski (DR III<sub>6</sub>)

This is an old cart track made into a footpath. The gradient is quite steep.

Dragalevski Monastery-Pasha Bunar (DR III<sub>7</sub>)

This is a wide footpath with an even surface. It is 250 m long.

Dragalevski Monastery-Malkoto Gradishte (DR III<sub>8</sub>)

This is a part of the low mountain circumference footpath. It is a promenade in the region of the monastery. It is 580 m long.

Belenski-The Highway (DR III<sub>9</sub>)

This footpath connects the Pasha Bunar-"Bay Krustyo" Shelter-"Aleko" tourist hut footpath with the Dragalevtsi-"Aleko" tourist hut footpath.

Kikish-Orlovo Gnezdo (DR III<sub>10</sub>)

This footpath is an auxiliary to the Kikish-Flatoto footpath (DR II<sub>2</sub>). It is 980 m long.

# STARTING POINT SIMEONOVO VILLAGE (SM)

(Simeonovo is one of the relatively large sub Vitosha Mountain villages. It has all the natural prerequisites for becoming a resort center for the population of Sofia. However it is lagging in city planning. Not far above it is a beautiful coniferous forest, now a park. The Simeonovska River, along which several pools have been dug, flows to the east of the park. It is convenient and agreeable for swimming in summer.

(Two rest homes belonging to the trade unions are about 1,200 m above the village in the upper end of the pine forest.

(Simeonovo village is an important and very convenient starting point for hikes in the eastern part of the "Vitosha" Park. From here convenient and agreeable hiking routes lead to the region of the "Aleko" tourist hut, Cherni Vrukh Peak, the Dervishka Bachiya site, the Bistritsa Reserve, etc.)

Simeonovo village is in the northern foothills of the Vitosha Mountains, 9 km to the southeast of Sofia and on an altitude of about 790 m. The trip to Simeonovo is made by bus. Coaches start from the Square at the Pioneers' Palace. A bus stop is on the right front corner of the place yard.

The first bus leaves for Simeonovo at 0510 hours and the last at 2100 hours. During the day coaches leave Sofia for Simeonovo every hour (on the hour) and leave Simeonovo for Sofia every hour (on the half hour).

First Class FootpathSimeonovo-Brezovitsa-"Aleko" Tourist Hut (SM D<sub>1</sub>)

Length of footpath	8.2 km
Climb	1,010 m
Average gradient	12.5%
Hiking time	3 hours

The Simeonovo-Brezovitsa-"Aleko" tourist hut footpath begins at the lower end of the pine forest directly above the village. It is reached by following Belikata Street which starts at the school near the bus stop, toward the forest. For the first 600 m the footpath goes through a beautiful pine forest. The steep climb is achieved by several hairpin turns. At the upper end of the forest the footpath emerges on a wide meadow, passes the rest home of the trade union of workers of the Ministry of Construction, and after making 2 turns above the Belikata site, comes out at the fountain above the Gorna Plocha site.

From the fountain at the Gorna Plocha site the footpath enters a hazelnut forest. In some places it resembles a tunnel. After making only one turn in 1,200 m, the footpath reaches a second fountain, at the Mala Brezovitsa site, which has resting facilities. Beyond the fountain, the footpath continues through the hazelnut forest for no more than 400 to 500 m and then emerges at the meadow below the Zhelezni Vrata site. To the left of the rock at the Zhelezni Vrata site is a fountain and a comfortable place to rest, and only 300 m higher up, to the right of the footpath, is an extensive pond named "Bubreka," and also a fountain and rest facilities.

About 700 to 800 m beyond the pond, the footpath emerges just at the entrance to the court yard of the Brezovitsa forestry station on the highway leading to the "Aleko" tourist hut. It follows the highway from here to the Romanski shelter, about 1,800 m. Here is an agreeable place to rest -- the Tsvetna Polyana site, which is off to the left of the highway, near the forestry station. A monument to the student Romanski, who died a tragic death in 1933, is at the upper end of the highway to the left and east of the shelter. A little higher up, at the turn in the highway a temporary wooden building, "Udarnik," has been built. The sites around the Romanski monument and the tourist hut are pleasant places to rest. There is good cold water at the tourist hut.

The distance from here to the "Aleko" tourist hut is 800 m. The route to the tourist hut branches off from the highway a little before the big curve. At first the gradient is slight, but becomes rather steep toward the middle of the path. Near the tourist hut, it passes through an old coniferous forest and enters the tourist hut area from the northeast.

In winter the footpath, except for the part which follows the highway, is not convenient for skiing because of its steep gradient and sharp turns. Along the highway, however, when the snow is thick and soft or wet, skiing is poor because of the slight gradient.

#### Second Class Footpaths

##### Simeonovo-Buda-"Aleko" Tourist Hut (SM II<sub>1</sub>)

The Simeonovo-Buda-"Aleko" tourist hut footpath has the same starting point as the Simeonovo-Brezovitsa-"Aleko" tourist hut

footpath. The best way to reach it is to follow Belikata Street. As it enters the pine forest, the footpath divides fan-like, directly after the first bridge, into 3 routes. The right branch leads to the Brezovitsa forestry station. The other 2 branches constitute the main branches of the footpath network of the Simeonovo Park. These branches take one across the park to the artificial pond in the river valley beyond the park.

From the pond the footpath continues upstream along the Simeonovska River, crosses to its left bank and back again several times, climbs some 150 m and then makes a sharp left turn. About 300 m above the first pond is a second pond, as well as a small pool in the river, close by. Leading almost straight upward, the footpath emerges at the Sovato site.

The footpath leads from Sovato to the Buda site and to the pine forest above the Yanchevska River, which flows toward the Bistritsa village. Here it leads for the most part through meadows, has a slight gradient, and makes slight turns which follow the topography. Near the pine forest the view opens out over almost the entire Sofia plain, and on the east, to the valleys of the Yanchevska River, the Bistritsa River, and to the neighboring heights. To the left of the footpath, 100 m before it enters the forest, is a nice spring with comfortable facilities for rest.

From the meadows the footpath leads into a thick pine forest, cuts across a small moraine, some 20 m below which is a fountain in a small forest meadow. From this point on the footpath crosses numerous small meadows and sparse woods and then emerges in the open above the valley of the Yanchevska River. Here one of the most picturesque scenic views in the mountains opens out. The



entire Dervishka Bachiya site, the old nursery, the valley of the Yanchevska River, the valley of the Stantsite River with its numerous moraines, the point where the 2 rivers come together, the Pogledets, Katunishte, and Reznovete peaks, etc, can be clearly seen from here.

Crossing the Yanchevska River, the footpath turns sharply to the right and emerges on the road leading from the Brezovitsa forestry station to the Karkuma site (SM II<sub>2</sub>), the preserve, and the Bistritsa village. It follows this road to the right for about 100 m and then turns upward to the left, and 700 m upstream reaches the Romanski monument. At the bridge over the Yanchevska River is a resting place with a pond, a fountain, a fireplace, benches, etc.

From the bridge the footpath follows the river upstream, cuts across it several times, and then leads through the juniper and beech forests. The footpath divides before it reaches the Romanski monument. The right branch is short -- only 80 m long -- and runs to the highway which leads to the monument, while the left branch continues upward and joins the footpath from the Romanski shelter to the "Aleko" tourist hut which we mentioned in describing the Simeonovo-Brezovitsa-"Aleko" tourist hut footpath (SM I<sub>4</sub>).

The Simeonovo-Buda-"Aleko" tourist hut footpath will be used much in the future. It is the shortest and most picturesque route between Sofia and the "Aleko" tourist hut. It has the slightest possible gradient and a rich diversity of facilities, and it leads through beautiful sites. Between the Yanchevska River and Simeonovo it is convenient for skiing. It is 7.250 km long, has an average gradient of 12.5%, and it takes about 3 hours to traverse it.

Brezovitsa Forestry Station-Karkuma (SM IIc)

The Brezovitsa-Karkuma footpath is a part of the middle mountain circumference footpath. It makes the connection between the regions above the Dragalevtzi and Simeonovo villages in the middle mountain zone on the one hand, and the region of the Bistritsa village on the other. This footpath begins at the Dragalevtzi-Romanski monument highway, 280 m from the Brezovitsa forestry station, and ends at the forestry station at the Karkuma site, where it joins the Bistritsa village-"Aleko" tourist hut footpath. It is 3.350 km long.

The first section, from the highway to the Yanchevska River is about 1.5 km long, and cuts through a dense 20 to 30-year-old pine forest. In the lower part of the forest it crosses the large Tsvetna Meadow.

After crossing the Yanchevska River, the footpath enters the Dervishka Bachiya site, which stretches between the valleys of the Yanchevska and Stantsiite rivers. The footpath makes a convex arch to the Stantsiite River. It crosses the river, climbs up to the Fogledets site, turns sharply to the right and, at the same slight gradient, leads to the meadows and forestry station at the Karkuma site.

Third Class FootpathsTsvetna Polyana Site-Petrov Grob-Platoto (SM IIIc)

The footpath connecting the Tsvetna Polyana site with the Platoto site passes through the Petrov Grob site. It begins at the highway leading to the Romanski monument and joins the "Tintyava" tourist hut-"Aleko" tourist hut footpath. It is 630 m long.

# STARTING POINT BISTRITSA VILLAGE (BS)

(Bistritsa is one of the largest sub Vitosha Mountains villages. It was established during the Middle Ages, first as an ore mining village for the production of iron. It is on a terrace between the Vitosha and Plana mountains. The population is engaged in agriculture, livestock breeding, and stone quarrying.

(Bistritsa village is becoming an excellent resort settlement. An entire sector of cottages has already been built in the upper part of the village where the Yanchevska and the Stara Reka rivers merge.

(Bistritsa is a starting point for hikers toward the higher regions of the park -- the "Aleko" tourist hut, Cherni Vrukh, Reznyovete, Golemiya Krpen and Skoparnika peaks.

(The Bistritsa reserve -- the largest and best preserved coniferous forest in the Vitosha Mountains -- is 3 km above the village.)

Bistritsa village is on the northeastern slope of the mountain 17 km east of Sofia, at an 860 m of altitude.

The trip from Sofia to Bistritsa is made by bus. The Zheleznitsa village bus leaves Vuzrazhdane Square in Sofia at 1500 hours, and leaves Bistritsa at 0730 hours. Bistritsa can also be reached by special coach starting from the "Graf Ignatiev" Street bridge. However the coaches do not yet go all the way to the village but stop at the "Mlada Gvardiya" Cooperative Inn (Bunkera), 3 km from the village. The first coach leaves Sofia at 0530 hours. The last bus leaves Bistritsa village for Sofia at 2005 hours. The trip takes 25 to 30 minutes.

First Class FootpathBistritsa-"Aleko" Tourist Hut (BS I<sub>5</sub>)

Length of the path	9.640 km
Climb	950 m
Average gradient	10%
Duration of climb	3.5 hours

The footpath begins in the southwestern part of Bistritsa village, near where the Stara Reka and Yanchevska rivers merge. One reaches the footpath by following the signs from the main square in the center of the village.

The convenience and advantage offered by this footpath lie in the fact that it enters the mountains just at the village. The moment the hiker has set foot on it, he is in the foothills of the Vitosha Mountains. The footpath immediately mounts the left bank of the Stara Reka River, crosses a recently planted forest, traverses deep, dry valleys by means of beautiful little bridges and dikes, and about 1.5 km farther on, crosses to the other bank of the river via a unique bridge. For about 1.5 km until it reaches the great falls of the river the footpath has a pleasant, minimal gradient. Here, by the falls, a bridge and a kiosk have been built. A little higher up, tables and benches have been placed by the cold spring. This offers not only a place to rest during the course of a hike, but also a practical and agreeable camping ground for overnight hikers coming to the falls.

Just above this site, the footpath enters the great Bistritsa Reserve. Once within the reserve it follows the river, sometimes almost at the water's edge, sometimes a little farther from it. It

crosses the river more than 10 times via beautiful little wooden bridges with unusual latticed railings.

After passing through the Mekhancheto site, a meadow a little above the point where the rivers which flow down from Skoparnika and Golemiya Rezen peaks merge, the footpath turns sharply to the right, passes below the Golyamata Gramada site, and after some 1,200 m, emerges on the wide meadows at the Karkuma site, 7.540 km from Bistritsa village and 2.1 km from the "Aleko" tourist hut. The footpath has 2 branches leading to this point. The first is on the left (BS III<sub>3</sub>). It is a narrow path -- 1.20 m wide -- which leads some 200 m to the Golyamata Gramada site -- a huge stone "river" 80 m wide in some places and over 1 km long.

The less direct path crosses the Gramada site and joins the footpath leading to the "Aleko" tourist hut again. Another branch turns to the right 420 m above the first branch and leads to the Pogledets site. It is a footpath of normal width and links the reserve with the footpath leading from the Karkuma site to the Brezovitsa forestry station (SM III<sub>1</sub>).

The Karkuma site has a small forestry station, a fountain, tables, and benches. The wide sunny meadows at the Karkuma site are covered with a multicolored carpet of flowers from early spring to late autumn. A footpath branches off to the right from the Karkuma site toward the Brezovitsa forestry station.

Between the Karkuma site and the "Aleko" tourist hut, the footpath passes uninterruptedly through beautiful forest meadows, woods and clearings carpeted with fir needles. Eight hundred meters beyond the forestry station it crosses the moraine above the Stantsiite River via an ornate bridge 50 m long -- the longest foot bridge

over a moraine in Bulgaria. High above the bridge, on the river's left bank is a resting place with tables and benches.

Seven hundred meters higher up is the Mecha Polyana site -- the most beautiful rest area in the region of the "Aleko" tourist hut. Above it, the footpath passes through a juniper forest and emerges into the yard of the tourist hut at the cable car station.

A footpath leading to Piperkata Peak (BS III<sub>3</sub>) branches off to the left about 300 m above the Karkuma site. It joins the Mecha Polyana-Golyamiya Kupen footpath. On the edge of the Mecha Polyana site a footpath branches off to Skoparnika, Kupena, and Cherni Vrukh peaks (BS II<sub>2</sub>).

The Bistritsa village-"Aleko" tourist hut footpath does not get muddy during the rainy season, except for the short section between the village and the river, where the soil is clayish.

In winter it is difficult to traverse because of drifts and heavy snow. It is not suitable for skiing.

#### Second Class Footpaths

##### Dervishka Bachiya-"Aleko" Tourist Hut (BS II<sub>1</sub>)

This footpath is a part of the important Bistritsa village-"Aleko" tourist hut route. It branches off from the Brezovitsa-Karkuma footpath (SM II<sub>1</sub>) going toward the tourist hut at the old tree nursery at the Dervishka Bachiya site. It is 2 km long. Here the gradient is between 10 and 20% and along some short stretches, over 20%. Almost at its very beginning, the footpath starts to curve, with a slight hairpin turn, through the meadow above the "Razsadnika" nursery. It passes through an old coniferous forest and emerges at the Vtoroto Runo site -- a broad, flat meadow.

From here it goes westward through wooded areas of varying kinds and different ages and emerges in the meadow at the Tretoto Gunc site. Here the footpath goes along the edge of a beautiful moraine, crosses its western part, and re-enters the forest. Still leading westward the footpath, a few hundred meters farther on, enters the yard of the "Aleko" tourist hut at the cable car stop.

"Aleko" Tourist Hut-Kupena Peak (BS II<sub>2</sub>)

The "Aleko" tourist hut-Kupena Peak footpath, 4.840 km long, links the "Aleko" hiking center and Skoparnika and Kupena peaks. It has a slight gradient averaging 4 to 6%, with a maximum of less than 10%. It begins at the Mecha Polyana site with a slight gradient, cuts across the high mountain meadows and moraines, and descending, leads to one of the tributaries of the Stara Reka River. The footpath leads along below the Rezniovete Peak, bypasses the Piperkata Peak and the Bistrishki Reserve, and describes an arch through this region with its open side toward the reserve. The terrain is open and offers a beautiful scenic view on all sides.

After crossing the tributary of the Stara Reka River, the footpath crosses many other streams, brooks and moraines, and enters the high plateau between the Skoparnika and Kupena peaks. It crosses the plateau, on an almost level gradient, for about 800 m and comes out at Kupena Peak.

About 2.5 km from the Mecha Polyana site, in the middle of the path, and 400 to 500 m after it crosses the first tributary of the Stara Reka River, another path branches off to the right leading up the slopes of Skoparnika Peak, to Cherni Vrukh Peak (BS II<sub>3</sub>).

Skoparnika-Cherni Vrukh (BS II<sub>3</sub>)

The Skoparnika-Cherni Vrukh peaks footpath links the foothills of Skoparnika Peak with Cherni Vrukh Peak and is 2.510 km long. It branches off from the "Aleko" tourist hut-Kupena Peak footpath (BS II<sub>2</sub>) about 400 to 500 m from the point where it crosses the first tributary of the Stara Reka River. At first the footpath has a steep gradient. Then it climbs to the watershed ridge between the Stara Reka River and the Struma River basins, which is the high plateau connecting Skoparnika Peak and Golemiya Rezen Peak.

After leaving the Golemiya Rezen Peak region the footpath turns to the right, winds between the rocks below the Golemiya Rezen Peak, passing rocks and stone blocks of unusual forms, and emerges on the slanted slope between Golemiya Rezen and Cherni Vrukh peaks. There, Cherni Vrukh Peak itself, with its observation station can suddenly be seen. The gradient here is slight. The footpath goes up Cherni Vrukh Peak, following an almost straight line to the top.

The Skoparnika-Cherni Vrukh footpath is a real pleasure for lovers of high mountain scenery to follow.

Third Class FootpathsPogledets-Rezervata (BS III<sub>1</sub>)

The Pogledets-Rezervata footpath is a link between SM II<sub>1</sub> and BS I<sub>6</sub>. It connects the Dervishka Bachiya site region with the Bistrishki Reserve region. It is 1.2 km long.



Markuma-Piparkata (BB IIIc)

This footpath branches off from the main Bistritsa village-"Aleko" tourist hut footpath about 300 m from the forestry station at the Markuma site. It is used as a direct connection between the sites mentioned, bypassing the tourist hut. It is 1.070 km long.

## STARTING POINT Kladnitsa VILLAGE (KL)

(Kladnitsa is a small settlement lying along the 2 banks of the Kladnitsa River, at an altitude of about 1,000 m. According to Pavel Deliradev, its name comes from the name morel, a mushroom which abounds in this vicinity. It is also possible that the name comes from the word kladiya, which indicates a special method of arranging wood which is to be used to make charcoal.

(Kladnitsa village includes Rudarska Hamlet, which was a part of Rudarshtitsa -- a former center of the ore industry. Rich coal deposits have now been discovered and are being exploited here. There is a group of mineral water springs by the village, with a flow of 220 l/m. The water is colorless, has a pleasant, mild taste, and has a temperature of 25°C.

(Not far to the east of the village in the Vitosha Mountains is the Kladnitsa Monastery, "Sveti Nikola Chudotvorets." The monastery is very old, and despite the walls protecting it, has been destroyed several times. Its latest restoration dates from 1841.)

Kladnitsa village is on the western slope of Vitosha, about 24 km to the southwest of Sofia and 10 km south of Rayko Daskalovo village. Its average altitude is 1,000 m.

The trip from Sofia to Kladnitsa village is made by street car to Knyazhevo, then by bus to Rayko Daskalovo village, and then on foot through Murchaevo village. Coming from Rayko Daskalovo village other than on foot, it is better to go via the Dragichevo railroad station instead of through Murchaevo village.

Kladnitsa is the principal starting point toward the Vitosha Mountains for Dimitrovo hikers. They can reach the village directly by bus or truck from Dimitrovo, or can take the train to the Dragichevo railroad station.

Dragichevo is a railroad stop on the Sofia-Dimitrovo railroad line. All passenger trains stop there.

The trip from Sofia railroad station to the Dragichevo railroad station takes 40 minutes. From there one hour and a half of walking brings one to Kladnitsa village. In all the trip from Sofia railroad station to Kladnitsa village takes about 2 hours and 10 minutes.

The trip from Dimitrovo city to Kladnitsa village by train and on foot also takes 2 hours. By direct bus or truck it takes only 40 minutes.

The mineral springs at Kladnitsa and the swimming pool which has been constructed at Rudarska hamlet will soon enliven this starting point and increase the number of hikers visiting this part of the mountains.

Because of its geographical location, mineral waters, and agreeable climate, Kladnitsa village has a great potential for development as an excellent mountain resort, as well.

First Class FootpathKladnitsa Village-"Selimitsa" Tourist Hut-"Ostritsa" Tour-  
ist Hut (KL 16)

Length of footpath	4.670 km
Climb	700 m
Average gradient	15%
Walking time	1 hour and 30 minutes

The Kladnitsa-"Ostritsa" tourist hut footpath begins at the eastern edge of the village, first following the highway leading to the "Selimitsa" tourist hut along the bank of the Jordan River. Below the "Sveti Nikola" Monastery at the Plachi Skala site, it leaves the highway, which makes a wide arc to the northeast. The footpath continues straight ahead along the right bank of the river to the "Selimitsa" tourist hut. It enters the yard of the tourist hut from the west, turns north, passing the playgrounds, and emerges at the Lenishte site in the meadows above the tourist hut.

Here the footpath turns from the north to the northeast by means of 2 hairpin turns, climbs above Father Petrushin's sheepcote, from which it continues in the same direction through a young, sparse forest. It continues in this direction to the Yabulkata site, where it crosses the moraine stretching to the Markov Nozh site and begins to climb upward.

Here, just beyond the moraine, water can be found among the moraine rocks. The water is clean and safe for drinking. From the moraine upward, the footpath is steep, climbing in broad hairpin turns to the ridge, among the stones on the left is water also good for drinking.

The Golinata ridge commands a broad view of Rayko Daskalovo village, the Lyulin Mountains, Dimitrovo city, the "Lenin" DZM (Durzhaven metalurgicheski zavod, State Metallurgical Plant) and the lake at the "Studena" Dam. At this point the footpath turns east-northeast and about 100 m from the tourist hut, it is joined by footpath RD II<sub>1</sub> coming from Rayko Daskalovo village on the left. The path then emerges on the western side of the yard of the tourist hut.

The Kladnitsa village-"Selimitsa" tourist hut-"Ostritsa" tourist hut path is of primary importance to those wanting to enter the park from its western side with Kladnitsa village as the starting point. Up to the "Selimitsa" tourist hut the footpath is old and needs correction and repair. From Kladnitsa to the "Selimitsa" tourist hut the footpath is 1.7<sup>4</sup><sub>7</sub> km long and from the "Selimitsa" tourist hut to the "Ostritsa" tourist hut it is 2.923 km. Its total length is 4.670 km.

The walking time along the footpath is as follows: 30 minutes from Kladnitsa village to the "Selimitsa" tourist hut, and 70 minutes from the "Selimitsa" tourist hut to the "Ostritsa" tourist hut. The hike from Kladnitsa village to the "Ostritsa" tourist hut takes, in all, about 90 minutes.

#### STARTING POINT RAYKO DASKALOVO VILLAGE (RD)

(This village was called Vladaya until the beginning of 1954 when it was renamed after the noted agrarian Rayko Daskalov. During World War I it was the center of military activities which brought about the repression of the "soldiers' rebellion" and the destruction of the "Radomir Republic" established by Rayko Daskalov.

(This village was formerly an ore mining and charcoal settlement, but now the livelihood of its population is radically different. Several quarries from which first class stone is produced are now found in the vicinity of the village.)

(Governmental, student, and other sanatoria are north of the village in the foothills of the Lyulin Mountains.)

The village is 14 km southwest of Sofia and 6 km from Knyazhevo. It is on the northwestern slope of Vitosha, at an altitude of about 850 m.

It is linked with Sofia by a railroad line and a first class paved highway.

All passenger trains operating along the Sofia-Dimitrovo railroad line stop at the Rayko Daskalovo railroad station. During the summer, the trip to the village can be made on Sundays and holidays with an "I" category railroad ticket which is 50% cheaper than the regular fare. The trip takes about 30 minutes.

The trip to Rayko Daskalovo village can also be made by street car No 5 to Knyazhevo and the "V" bus line from Knyazhevo to the village.

The first coach leaves Knyazhevo at 0525 hours. The last car leaves Rayko Daskalovo for Knyazhevo at 2400 hours. The coaches leave every hour on the half hour from Knyazhevo and every hour on the hour from Rayko Daskalovo for Knyazhevo.

They leave from a point across from the steps leading to the pine forest on the main street in Knyazhevo, and in Rayko Daskalovo from a point on the main square across from the "Moskva" restaurant.

There are 3 stops along this bus route: at the 10 km marker, from which the "Turskiya put" road leads to the Golyama Livada site; another at the Cherniya Kos site, from which a road leads to Mount Iyulin and to the Kiselishte site and the "Belite Brezi" tourist hut; the last stop is on the highway leading to the sanatorium.

The bus trip from Rayko Daskalovo to Knyazhevo takes 15 to 20 minutes, and the service is speedy and reliable.

#### First Class Footpath

##### Rayko Daskalovo-Zlatni Mostove-"Malchika" Tourist Hut (RD I<sub>7</sub>)

Length of the footpath	6.1
Climb	874 m
Average incline	12%
Duration of trip	2 hours and 30 minutes

The Rayko Daskalovo-Zlatni Mostove-Malchika footpath begins just above the maternity home in the southeastern part of the village above the church. It goes first to the southeast, following the left bank of the Vladiyaskata River for about 200 m, then turns and climbs, and again goes southeast through the lower end of the young pine forest at the Pashishte site. Then it turns south and climbs slightly along the left bank of the river and emerges on the ridge at the Denina Niva site. It then continues to climb along the ridge at a very slight gradient to the Vadite site, from which second class footpath RD II<sub>2</sub> branches off to the Musicologists' tourist hut and the "Dimitur Blagoev" tourist hut.

From the Vadite site the footpath leads through a young beech forest west of the Lipata quarry, and at a distance of 200 to 250 m, crosses to the right bank of the Vladayska River over a solid wooden

bridge. There is a small fountain about 150 m high up at the Pankyovoto site, around which resting benches have been placed on small terraces. A meadow, a pleasant place to rest, is on the other bank of the river. It has fireplaces and sunbathing areas. The Pankyovoto site is the first comfortable resting place on this footpath since it left Rayko Daskalovo village.

After the Pankyovoto site the footpath passes to the right of the trade union cottages and the river bridge where the highway from the Plochata Quarry ends and comes to the fountain at the Mishkovoto site. Beyond the fountain it crosses the small Korubata meadow and emerges at the Khaydushkoto Vitlo site. Here are places for resting and swimming in the river, but there is no drinking water. After a steep climb to the Khaydushkoto Vitlo site, the footpath crosses the Izspirska meadow to the Pazarishteto site. Here, after crossing several small bridges over the river, the Kukuzelska path, which leads to the "Dimitur Blagoev" tourist hut (RD III<sub>3</sub>) branches off to the right.

A small stone fountain has been built at the Pazarishteto site and a table and benches for resting have been placed here. Leaving the Pazarishteto site, the footpath gradually angles away from the river, crossing a beautiful site planted with beech and juniper trees, after which it emerges at the Boyana-Zlatnite Mostove highway, about 50 m north of the bridge across the moraine.

From the Zlatnite Mostove site the footpath continues along the highway to the Military Rest Home (VVS) and up to the Flaviloto site, also known as Lovers' Island. There it leaves the highway and, after crossing the bridge over the Vladayska River, goes through the forest toward the southeast. It passes consecutively

through the Sredna Gora and Bulikoto sites and emerges at the fountain on the newly laid out cart track leading to the "Boeritsa" forestry station. Here it crosses the road and, following along the edge of the Golemiya swamp, emerges above it. Then it makes 2 wide turns through a tall beech forest and joins first class footpath KN I<sub>1</sub>, coming from Knyazhevo, about 150 m northeast of the "Malchika" tourist hut.

The section of the footpath between Rayko Daskalovo village and the Zlatnite Mostove site is the easiest and most accessible path into the mountains.

#### Second Class Footpaths

##### Rayko Daskalovo "Ostritsa" Tourist Hut (Broks) (RD II<sub>1</sub>)

At first this footpath goes west along the highway past the village soviet. Before reaching the Gypsy quarter, it leaves the highway and turns south. At the Lishkovitsa site it emerges on the highway leading to the stone quarries and follows it to the Plochte Quarry. From there the highway to the trade union cottages goes off to the left and east.

The footpath leads to the "General Vinarov" Quarry via the main highway. Above it, following along the right edge of the moraine, it climbs to the Yurushki bridge, crosses the moraine from east to west, and continues toward the south, this time along the left edge of the moraine.

Above the Yurushki bridge, the footpath goes through meadows and crosses the Murchaevski cattle run, below which, in the rocks, is drinking water, to reach the Miovi Orhitsi site. Here the



footpath leaves the valley and enters the forest which is deciduous at first, gradually blending toward coniferous. The path twists through the forest, climbs, and emerges at a small meadow where it crosses the so-called Murchaevska brook.

Beyond the brook the footpath goes to the south, cuts across the ravine leading up from the fountain below the "Ostritsa" tourist hut, and joins first class footpath KL I<sub>6</sub> coming from Kladnitsa village. Together they enter the yard of the hut from the west.

This footpath is 7 km long and the hiking time is about 2 hours and 30 minutes.

Vadite Site-"Dimitur Blagoev" Tourist Hut (Fonfon) (RD II<sub>2</sub>)

The Vadite site-"Dimitur Blagoev" tourist hut footpath is the direct link between first class footpaths RD I<sub>7</sub> leading to the Zlatnite Mostove site and second class footpath RD II<sub>5</sub> leading to the "Dimitur Blagoev" tourist hut. It starts at the Vadite site where it branches off on the right and to the south from first class footpath RD I<sub>7</sub>, leading from Rayko Daskalovo village to the Zlatnite Mostove site. It makes a slight turn and climbs gradually along the Goli Rid ridge. Here it passes through a young deciduous forest, following for the most part an old quarry road. It crosses the highway which leads from the Plochite Quarry to the trade union cottages, and which continues to the south.

After crossing the highway, the footpath follows along the western edge of the meadows, re-enters the forest, and after a few hairpin turns emerges again on the quarry road below the former "Iveto" Stone Quarry. There is a spring with good drinking water on the right below the footpath. From here the footpath follows an old cart track and passes consecutively through the Ranchova

Livada, Mechiya Gyol, and Nikolini Livadi sites; then it emerges on the moraine at the Zadmuro site.

At the Zadmuro site the footpath crosses the right bank of the moraine and after several consecutive hairpin turns emerges at the Vladayski Konyarnik site west of the Musicologist's hut. From the hut the footpath goes to the southeast, passing through a beautiful young forest of birch and juniper trees and emerges on the meadow in front of the Radio Sofia tourist hut; there it is joined by the Kukuzelska path (RD III<sub>3</sub>) coming from the north.

From the Radio Sofia tourist hut the footpath continues to the south, crosses a nice looking birch bridge over the left tributary of the Klokotnitsa River, and enters the yard of the "Dimitur Blagoev" tourist hut from the north.

The length of the footpath is 4.5 km. The trip takes 2 hours.

Rayko Daskalovo-"Belite Brezi" Tourist Hut-Zlatnite Mostove  
(RD II<sub>2</sub>)

This footpath starts at the southeastern end of the village at the Rudishte site, near the automobile road from the Lipata Quarry to Rayko Daskalovo village. It goes first to the east, gradually turning to the southeast, and about 400 m from its beginning it reaches the Shipets site where, about 30 m to the left of the footpath, a nice stone fountain and rest facilities have been built.

From the Shipets site, the footpath passes to the right of the Karadzhova Quarry and goes east to the Pankyovata Livada site. The Ivanchoviya well, which has pure water and never dries up

throughout the year, is 150 m to the north of this site. Above the Pankyovata Livada site the footpath enters a beautiful beech forest, climbs in several consecutive turns, and passing through the Tunela and Taseviya Golosek sites, emerges at the Studen Kladenets fountain, to the right and below the Boyana-Zlatnite Mostove highway. At the Studen Kladenets fountain the footpath turns to emerge on the highway, crossing it and continuing to the southeast, through the Belite Brezi meadow, toward the "Belite Brezi" tourist hut.

Just short of the "Belite Brezi" tourist hut, the footpath is joined by second class footpath KN II<sub>1</sub>, leading to the Kiselishte site, and a little beyond, by third class footpath KN III<sub>13</sub> leading to the "Planinets" tourist hut. The Rayko Daskalovo-"Belite Brezi" tourist hut-Zlatnite Mostove footpath actually does not pass the "Belite Brezi" tourist hut but deviates 50 to 60 m to the northeast of it, emerging above the "Bay Krum" shelter. It then passes the old and unused Gurkova Quarry and comes out on the Zlatnite Mostove-"Bor" tourist hut highway at the Mochurlivata Livada site. Then it follows the highway, passes the small forestry point, and enters the Zlatnite Mostove site from the north.

The Rayko Daskalovo village-Zlatnite Mostove footpath is comparatively new. Most of it was laid out in 1954, thus it is still not widely known. It is the shortest route for return to Sofia through Rayko Daskalovo village from the "Belite Brezi" tourist hut. The descent takes 50 to 60 minutes. Via the footpath it is 3.720 km from Rayko Daskalovo village to the "Belite Brezi" tourist hut.

Durveniyat Most-Kiselishte (RD II<sub>1</sub>)

The Durveniyat Most-Kiselishte footpath begins at the Durveniyat Most site on the Knyazhevo-Rayko Daskalovo highway and follows south along the left bank of the Planinitsa River for a time. Seventy to 80 m above the highway it turns west and a branch of it goes off to Rayko Daskalovo village (RD III<sub>1</sub>).

Beyond the place where the path divides, the Durveniyat Most-Kiselishte footpath emerges by the fountain at the Ofitserskite Livadi site. Here benches and tables have been placed for those who want to rest.

Beyond the Ofitserskite Livadi site the footpath turns to the south and follows through a young beech and oak forest high above the river bank. At the Chatala site it crosses the left tributary of the Planinitsa River, which flows in from the Yamusha site, and then goes east, emerging on the lowest meadow at the Naevitsa site. After turning to the southwest, it crosses the road which branches off the highway at the Golyamata Livada site and leads to Rayko Daskalovo village.

Above the road the footpath enters the forest again, approaches the Planinitsa River, and, following its left bank, leads to the Kiselishte site. Here it crosses to the right side and parallels the river for about 200 m. Then it turns east and joins second class footpath KN II<sub>1</sub> which leads to the "Belite Brezi" tourist hut.

The Durveniya Most-Kiselishte site footpath is 3.5 km long. It can be covered in about 90 minutes.

Zlatnite Mostove-"Dimitur Blagoev" Tourist Hut-"Ostritsa"

Tourist Hut (RD II-5)

This footpath begins on the left bank of the Vladayska River. It turns southwest about 50 or 60 m up the bank, and continues in the same direction to the "Ostritsa" tourist hut. From the turn to the point where it crosses the highway leading to the Military Rest Home (VVS), an ornamental wooden railing has been placed to help hikers traversing the footpath at night.

After crossing the VVS highway the footpath crosses the superhighway, climbs steeply for 50 to 60 m, and then continues at a very slight gradient to the small "Fonfon" tourist hut located in the southern end of the yard of the new "Dimitur Blagoev" tourist hut.

From the "Dimitur Blagoev" tourist hut the footpath continues to the west to the moraine and turns upward along it to the south. Here it continues along an old comparatively steep cart track. Here the climb is tiring. Shortly before it reaches the Yavorova meadow, which contains the busts of Yavorov and Rakovski, third class footpath RD III<sub>9</sub> branches off from this path and goes straight south to the "Edelvays" tourist hut, while the Zlatnite Mostove-"Ostritsa" tourist hut footpath crosses the Yavorova meadow and emerges at the Vitoshkata Konferentsiya site.

Beyond the Vitoshkata Konferentsiya site, the footpath emerges at the clearing made for the electric cable from Murchaev to the Zlatnite Mostove site, and begins to climb in hairpin turns up the exposed east slope of the Trendafila site. On the right of this side and below the footpath, a small stone fountain has been built;

from it is a beautiful view eastward toward Chernata Skala Peak, the "Boeritsa" forestry station, the Platoto site and Cherni Vrukh Peak, and southward to the Samara, Selimitsa, and other peaks.

Beyond the fountain the footpath crosses the meadow and then, at a very slight gradient, continues to the southwest. At the western end of the meadow, the third class footpath which leads from the Trendafila site to the "Edelvays" tourist hut (RD III<sub>7</sub>) branches off to the left and south. The main footpath continues to the southwest, crosses several small wooden bridges, follows the old Murchevski cattle run past the Itkova fountain, and comes out at the "Ostritsa" tourist hut.

The Zlatnite Mostove-"Dimitur Blagoev" tourist hut-"Ostritsa" tourist hut footpath has a total length of [illegible] km and it takes 75 minutes to walk it. Of this, 20 minutes takes one to the "Dimitur Blagoev" tourist hut, and 55 minutes more takes one from the "Dimitur Blagoev" tourist hut to the "Ostritsa" tourist hut.

### Third Class Footpaths

#### Planinitsa River-Rayko Daskalovo Village (RD III<sub>1</sub>)

This footpath is a continuation of third class footpath KN III<sub>2</sub> which comes from Knyazhevo. It establishes a direct footpath connection between Knyazhevo and Rayko Daskalovo. It is 1.3 km long.

#### "Belite Bresi" Tourist Hut-Highway to the Zlatnite Mostove (RD III<sub>2</sub>)

This footpath leads from the highway to the tourist hut. It is also used as a motor vehicle road to the tourist hut. Its first

section, after it leaves the highway, is quite steep. It is 320 m long.

Paparishteto Site-"Dimitur Blagoev" Tourist Hut (Fonfon)

(RD III<sub>3</sub>)

This is known as the Kukuzelska path. It makes a short route for hikers from Rayko Daskalovo village to the "Dimitur Blagoev" tourist hut, and makes it possible for them to reach the hut without passing through the Zlatnite Mostove site. It is 1.440 km long.

"Dimitur Blagoev" Tourist Hut-"Malchika" Tourist Hut (Kumata)

(RD III<sub>4</sub>)

This is the shortest route between the 2 tourist huts. It passes through a forest and also through clearings. It is 1.9 km long.

"Malchika" Tourist Hut-"Edelvays" Tourist Hut (RD III<sub>5</sub>)

This footpath runs entirely through the forest between the 2 tourist huts. It has no gradient and is not exposed to wind or snow drifts. It is good for skiing trips and contests. It is 2.150 km long.

"Malchika" Tourist Hut-"Edelvays" Tourist Hut (Through the Platoto Site) (RD III<sub>6</sub>)

Part of this footpath crosses the open plateau. Until recently it was the only link between these tourist huts. Part of it is used for the climb to Cherni Vrukh Peak. The footpath is 2.520 km long.

Trendafila-"Edelvays" Tourist Hut (RD III<sub>7</sub>)

This footpath links the "Ostritsa" tourist hut with the "Edelvays" tourist hut. Since the construction of the direct footpath between the 2 huts (RD III<sub>8</sub>), it is only used by a limited number of hikers. It is 650 m long.

"Ostritsa" Tourist Hut-"Edelvays" Tourist Hut (RD III<sub>8</sub>)

This footpath is the shortest possible route between the 2 huts and has no turns or gradients. Its entire length lies through a beautiful juniper forest. It is 1.590 km long.

"Dimitur Blagoev" Tourist Hut-"Edelvays" Tourist Hut (RD III<sub>9</sub>)

This footpath passes the Yavorova Polyana site. In winter it is used for skiing. It is 1.880 km long.

## TO CHERNI VRUKH PEAK

The starting points are as follows: the "Malchika" (Kumata), "Aleko," "Tintyava," and "Edelvays" tourist huts. It is also possible to start from the "Selimitsa" tourist hut, Chupetlovo village, Zheleznitsa village, etc.

Footpaths"Malchika" (Kumata) Tourist Hut-Cherni Vrukh Peak (KM I)

Length of the footpath	6.2 km
Climb	565 m
Average gradient	9%
Hiking time	2 hours



This footpath begins at the southwestern corner of the tourist hut and for a time runs through a tall juniper forest. The "Malchika" tourist hut-"Edelvays" tourist hut footpath (RD III<sub>5</sub>) branches off it to the right and toward the southwest about 20 m along it. This path is the shortest route between the 2 huts.

After the branch goes off to the right, the footpath leading to Cherni Vrukh Peak continues to the south some 100 m and then turns first east and then southeast. After another 100 to 150 m it emerges in an open meadow at the Groba site. To the left of the footpath is a small stone monument to a deceased hiker.

Another steeper footpath leads to this point from the southeastern corner of the tourist hut. It leads southeast and then southwest. It joins the first footpath just before it reaches the monument. It is used in winter by skiers as a ski path.

From the Groba site the footpath continues almost level then gradually turns to the southwest and west at a large group of juniper trees. It descends slightly to cross the upper reaches of the Vladayska River over a small wooden bridge and then emerges in the meadows at the Konyarnika site. The footpath emerges above the upper edge of the forest and comes to the peak itself after crossing some bare areas where only hortleberries and juniper trees grow.

The footpath skirts the swampy areas at the Konyarnika site on the northwest and west and arrives at a spot east of the highest rocks at this site. Here the old footpath leading to the "Edelvays" tourist hut, which passes through the Mariina meadow, branches off to the right and toward the west.

From this point the footpath continues straight south toward the "Stenata" site and runs level for about 250 m. From the small bridge over the Vladayska River to the branch-off leading to the "Edelvays" tourist hut are 86 signs on small wooden stakes 30 to 50 m apart. Triangular posters marked "Cherni Vrukh" Peak on the stakes bear consecutive numbers from 1 to 86. These signs assure the hikers of sure directions to the peak even in the worst weather.

The footpath mounts via switchbacks to the "Stenata" site. The hike is not tiring despite the great altitude covered by this sector of the path since the gradient never exceeds 15%. A nice stone shelter has been built 30 m to the southwest of the footpath near the upper end of the "Stenata" slope at the Tri Kladentsi site. Shortly before this the footpath crosses a clear stream with good drinking water.

The footpath continues south and southeast from the shelter and after some 250 m emerges on a flat surface -- the Selimishko plateau -- and then runs entirely horizontal and due east for 1,000 m. Three mountain springs are to the left of the first part of this section of the footpath. They have lent their names to this entire area -- the Tri Kladentsi [Three Wells] site. The pyramid on Selimitsa Peak is about 1,000 m to the southwest of this point. It is one of the 2,000 m high Vitosha Mountain Peaks.

Here the footpath is a comfortable high mountain path. It gradually turns to the south and southeast, crosses a small swamp in the lowest part of the plateau, and then gradually turns east and northeast. A slight gradient begins at the swamp, but ends after some 700 to 800 m, and is followed by a short level stretch. From this swamp to Cherni Vrukh Peak the footpath follows the border

between the 2 water areas which supply the Boyana and Dimitrovo aqueducts. Here it is forbidden to leave the path.

About 150 m before the level stretch is another peak to the right of the path. It is also in the 2,000 m class and is on the route of hikers going to Cherni Vrukh Peak. It is Samara Peak. The hardest part of the climb to Cherni Vrukh Peak is about 300 m below the summit itself. Here hikers must climb a gradient of up to 20%. The footpath emerges southwest of the Cherni Vrukh Peak meteorological observatory.

The "Malchika" tourist hut-Cherni Vrukh Peak footpath is most suitable for summer use. It does not get muddy in rainy weather. In winter large snow drifts settle in the sector between the small bridge over the Vladayska River and the peak. During blizzards this route is dangerous despite the excellent and uninterrupted signs.

"Aleko" Tourist Hut-Cherni Vrukh Peak (ALP)

Length of the footpath	3.9 km
Climb	480 m
Average gradient	12%
Hiking time	2 hours

This footpath begins on the eastern side of the "Aleko" tourist hut and passes to the left of the old tourist hut (Bunkera). It goes southeast and then, at the cable line stop, turns to the southwest and climbs in switchbacks along the "Stenata" slope to the upper cable line stop.

Hikers can get from the "Aleko" tourist hut to the upper cable line stop very easily and pleasantly by using the cable line

lift. In good weather it operates uninterruptedly and its suspended seats carry one hiker after another upward.

From the upper stop the footpath continues to the east, cutting into the rocky slope of Malkiya Rezen Peak. It skirts the peak on the north, northeast, and east and emerges southeast of it at the Golyamata Prespa site (the depression located between Malkiya Rezen and Golemiya Rezen peaks).

In summer hikers going to Cherni Vrukh Peak usually choose the Golyamata Prespa site for the first lengthy rest. From here on the footpath continues toward the south and to the right of Golemiya Rezen Peak. Gradually climbing, it passes about 30 m west of the peak, turns west and leads for a certain distance across an almost level stone covered stretch.

From here Cherni Vrukh Peak and its observatory can be clearly seen.

After its turning at the peak, the footpath leads down to the "Sedloto" site. In the lower part of the "Sedloto" site the footpath is joined on the left by the footpath coming across Skoparnika Peak from Kupena (BS II<sub>3</sub>). A short distance farther on a nice stone fountain with cold "Cherni Vrukh" water stands at the spot where the footpath begins to climb slightly again. The sources of the Struma River are found about 400 m to the left of the footpath.

The final climb to the peak begins at the fountain. It is only about 220 m, but is difficult and tiring due to the steep gradient and the many rocks scattered all over the path. The footpath emerges east of the meteorological station beyond which, on the west, the highest crags of Cherni Vrukh Peak are located.

The "Aleko" tourist hut-Cherni Vrukh Peak footpath is clearly indicated at the more important locations by small wooden stakes and placards. In clear weather the trail is not difficult to follow. In winter the footpath cannot be distinguished since the snow blanket in this section of the mountain is usually quite thick, at times as deep as 4 to 5 m. That is why winter trips to the peak are made by following telephone poles.

"Tintyava" Tourist Hut-"Aleko" Tourist Hut-Cherni Vrukh Peak (TN<sub>3</sub>)

Length of the footpath	9.1 km
Climb	665 m
Average gradient	7%
Hiking time	3 hours and 50 minutes

This footpath begins at the eastern corner of the "Tintyava" tourist hut and goes southeast. About 100 m beyond the tourist hut it intersects the aqueduct and the telephone line to the Kamunno building, and 250 m farther on passes the Gyoreva fountain, which is well known to hikers. Soon it joins the ski route coming from the Ushite site. From here on, keeping to the southeast, it follows the ski route from which it branches off where the planted trees end, about 300 m short of the Ushite site.

From that point the footpath leads straight to the "Prevala" site and up to about 450 m short of the "Aleko" tourist hut, passes through bare areas and meadows partially covered with juniper trees, grass, and mountain flowers. The entire stretch from the end of the ski route to the "Aleko" tourist hut is marked by 80 small wooden stakes with a wooden triangle, each bearing a consecutive number from No 1 to 40 fixed on every other pole.

The climb at the Prevala site is at a gradient of about 18%. The footpath emerges about 150 m north of the Ushite site. From this point the path descends for about 250 m. At the end of this stretch and 30 m to the right of the footpath is the "Ushite" shelter; near it is the small Khaydushko well. A little beyond there are springs on both sides of the footpath. From the shelter almost to the "Aleko" tourist hut, the footpath follows along the edge of the Platoto site toward the "Stenata" slope and Malkiya Rezen Peak. This is the easiest and most pleasant part of the footpath. The area right of the footpath is forbidden to hikers, as for about 2,000 m the footpath borders the water zone and the turf reserve on the southwest.

About 600 m from the shelter the footpath which goes through the Kominite site to the "Bay Krustyo" shelter and Dragalevtai village (DR II<sub>6</sub>) branches off to the left and toward the northeast, and from it a branch leads off above the Kominite site to Kikish Peak (DR II<sub>2</sub>). About 150 m along the branch to the Kominite site an abundant, cold spring, and comfortable places to rest near the rocks are found to the right of the footpath. From this point the footpath continues to the "Aleko" tourist hut. About 600 m after it divides the main branch of the path descends slightly and crosses the first tributary in a small wooden bridge and, in the next 500 m, the 4 other tributaries which together constitute the source of the Dragalevska River.

Following along in the same direction, the footpath begins to climb slightly and emerges at the Kapaklievets site, where it intersects the old tourist footpath from the Groba site to Cherni Vrukh Peak. At this point the footpath joins the cart track leading

to the "Aleko" tourist hut; it goes south, then turns southeast, and, in front of the tourist hut itself, turns east to emerge finally on its west side at the meteorological cage. From the tourist hut to Cherni Vruk Peak, the hikers follow the "Aleko" tourist hut footpath (AL<sub>2</sub>) described on page 86 in the guide.

The footpath from the "Tintyava" to the "Aleko" tourist huts can be used throughout the year. In winter, however, because of sudden storms and fog it is not advisable to cross the Platoto site alone despite the excellent markings and shelter.

"Edelvays" Tourist Hut-Cherni Vruk Peak (BD<sub>4</sub>)

Length of the footpath	7.880 km
Climb	597 m
Average gradient	8%
Hiking time	2 hours and 30 minutes

This footpath begins on the east side of the "Edelvays" tourist hut and leads southeast. About 150 m from the hut the path makes a hairpin turn and emerges in the Marlina Meadow after following an old cart track and passing through a nice juniper forest.

Beyond the Marlina Meadow, the footpath re-enters the forest and does not emerge from it until it reaches the Konyarnika site. It leads first to the southeast and then gradually turns toward the east.

At the Konyarnika site it passes south of the cluster of rocks and about 120 m from it, joins the "Malchika" tourist hut-Cherni Vruk Peak footpath (KM<sub>1</sub>) via which it reaches the top.

## HIGHWAYS, ROADS, AND CABLE CAR LINES

### Highways

The Vitosha People's Park contains several highways; most of these have not been completed and are not linked one with another.

1. The Boyana-Zlatnite Mostove highway, not only an important route for vehicular transportation but also a much used hikers' route to the interior of the mountains.

2. The highway from the Plochite Quarry to the trade union cottages which follows along the north slope of the mountain almost entirely without gradient. It is of no interest to hikers.

3. The Zlatnite Mostove-"Bor" tourist hut highway links the tourist huts at the Tintyava center with Zlatnite Mostove. This highway has not yet been completed. It is also used as a hikers' footpath.

4. The Kladnitsa-"Selimitsa" tourist hut highway is of some importance to hikers since it makes the motor vehicle link between Kladnitsa village and the "Selimitsa" tourist hut. Its surface is not graveled.

5. The Zlatnite Mostove-Vitosha Military Rest Home (VVS) highway is a temporary road mainly servicing the Military Rest Home. The highway is steep and not all motor vehicles can negotiate it. Part of this highway is included in the footpath network of the park.

### Roads

1. The road from Simeonovo village to the Stantsiite passes through a bare and unattractive region. It is not used by hikers.



2. The road from the Road Supervisor's Hut to the Boeritsa forestry station. This road is of economic significance in connection with timber production. It is often used by hikers and skiers.

3. The Malinarski road. This connects the Golyama Livada site with the Karpuzov Valog site and thus with the Planinishki meadows. It is among the important hikers and skiers routes in the park.

#### Cable Car Lines

In the past cable car lines were built in the Vitosha Mountains mainly for the transportation of stone materials produced in the mountains. Recently a network of cable car lines for the use of skiers and hikers has been started in the park. The following lines have been constructed:

##### 1. "Aleko" Tourist Hut-Ruba Site

This line is of the lift type with a continuous moving cable on which single seats are suspended. It was built in 1954. It is 740 m long. The climb from its lowest to its highest stop is about 200 m.

##### 2. Dragalevtsi Village-"Bay Krustyo" Shelter

This line was built in the autumn of 1955. It is 1.775 km long, and the climb between stations is about 412 m. The trip takes 20 minutes. Its capacity is 300 persons per hour one way.

The cable car line between Dragalevtsi village and the "Bay Krustyo" shelter represents the first stage in the construction of a line which will link Dragalevtsi village with Goli Peak in the park.

2. The road from the Road Supervisor's Hut to the Boeritsa forestry station. This road is of economic significance in connection with timber production. It is often used by hikers and skiers.

3. The Malinarski road. This connects the Golyama Livada site with the Karpuzov Valog site and thus with the Planinishki meadows. It is among the important hikers and skiers routes in the park.

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Hand Cart Tracks

These are narrow gauge gravitation railroads used mainly by the "Stone Industry" Administration.

There are now 2 such lines in the park:

1. From the quarry to the "Stone Industry" Administration office, located above Rayko Daskalovo village. This has a branch to the quarry at the Dolovete site.

The track is about 1,200 m long.

2. From the "General Vinarov" Quarry to the highway between Rayko Daskalovo village and the Yurushki Most site.

This line is 750 m long.

These carts are transportation equipment of no value for hikers or for their transportation in the park.

WINTER (SKI) RUNS

In winter all the footpaths and roads indicated in the guide are passable for hikers and can be used by skiers. That is why winter routes are not indicated separately here. Only the routes most commonly used as ski runs are indicated.

The ski runs described below start at Cherni Vrukh Peak, but can be used from any point on down, depending on the capabilities of the skier.

Cherni Vrukh Peak-"Bay Krustyo" Shelter-Dragalevtzi Village

This run has 2 branches.

Branch A: Cherni Vruh Peak, Platoto, Vulchata Skala, "Bay Krustyo" Shelter -- Dragalevtzi Village

The descent starts at the observatory and follows the marked route east of the rocks on Luvcheto Peak.

Here the ski trail leaves the old route to the Kamensko Building and, crossing Sredets Peak, continues to the north, following the western bank of the river to the Malkata Stena ridge.

Then the trail climbs slightly toward the ridge, with the rocks on the right, after which there is a descent along the Malkata Stena Slope. In the run down Malkata Stena a dangerous avalanche site must be skirted. A warning sign has been placed there. Here, because of poor visibility, particular attention is necessary to avoid accidents. After skirting this spot, the descent continues northeast in beautiful hairpin turns to the Dolnoto Blato site. A direct descent along the border of the water source region leads past the flat stretch of the Dolnoto Plato site and to footpath TN<sub>3</sub> between the "Tintyava" and the "Aleko" tourist huts. Beyond a sign post on the footpath the trail leads toward Kapaklievets Peak, from which it descends through a small pine forest to the first class footpath between Dragalevtzi and the "Aleko" tourist hut (DR I<sub>3</sub>). The footpath takes skiers to the Vulchata Skala site. The path skirts it on the east, cuts across the slope below it to the northwest and emerges near the fountain. From this point the footpath (DR I<sub>3</sub>) continues to descend toward the north to the "Bay Krustyo" shelter. It crosses the highway above the shelter itself. The highway can be reached from the "Bay Krustyo" shelter by following the cable car line which runs along to the right of it.

The path leaves the highway to begin the descent along the well marked run between the "Turnovitiya Dol," the foothills of the mountains, and the deposit cone above Dragalevtsi village.

Branch B: Cherni Vrukh Peak, the "Aleko" Tourist Hut, the "Romanski" Shelter, the "Bay Krustyo" Shelter, the Dragalevski Monastery, Dragalevtsi Village

The descent toward the northeast begins at the observatory and follows along to the right of the telephone line.

The path skirts the "Dupkata" site, after which it again parallels the telephone poles. (The guy wires on the poles must be carefully avoided. They occur every 3 to 4 poles.)

After a comparatively moderate descent along the telephone line, skiers reach the border of the Stenata site. The snow is blown away by strong winds from the upper part of the site, and icy places are frequently found. This part of the Stenata site is crossed diagonally; then skiers continue along the cable car lines in hairpin turns as far as the "Aleko" tourist hut.

From the tourist hut a marked run leads to the "Romanski" shelter; beyond it the highway leads to the "Bay Krustyo" shelter.

From the "Bay Krustyo" shelter to the highway (at the Golyameto Gradishte site) skiers follow the route described in Branch A.

The run continues along the highway down to the Dragalevski Monastery. When there is good snow, the run from the Dragalevski Monastery starts at the restaurant, and by going north through a sparse old beech forest, skiers come to the wooden bridge over the Dragalevska River and thus, following the river, to Dragalevtsi village.

Cherni Vrukh Peak-"Tintyava" Tourist Hut-Byalata Voda-Knyazhevo

The run from the Cherni Vrukh Peak to Knyazhevo is the most agreeable of all and is within the capabilities of most skiers.

The ski run here has moderate gradients, safe descents, and very few upgrades. With good snow, skiers can cover the 1,935 m difference in altitude and the 14,650 m horizontal length of the run in about 40 minutes.

From Cherni Vrukh Peak to the Pokazaletsa site east of the rocks of the Luvcheto Peak the descent is made via the old road described in Branch A, from Cherni Vrukh Peak, past the "Bay Krustyo" shelter, to the Dragalevtzi village.

There are 2 possible routes of descent from Luvcheto Peak.

Branch A -- past the Kamennoto building, following the signs, to the "Tintyava" tourist hut -- closed at present since to reach it it is necessary to enter the water supply zone.

Branch B -- from Luvcheto Peak, it descends toward the north like Branch A, to the Pokazaletsa site and the "Tintyava" tourist hut-Cherni Vrukh Peak (TN<sub>3</sub>) footpath leading to the Dolnoto Plato site. Following the "Tintyava" tourist hut-Cherni Vrukh Peak footpath to the northwest along the plateau by following the signs skiers can reach the foothills of Ushite Peak. The "Ushite" shelter lies to the left of the footpath.

Then the path climbs to the Sedloto site between the Ushite and Kamen Del peaks. At Sedloto the signs cease and the run leads toward the north along the edge of the Goreloto site until it reaches

the young forest and the well marked path through it. The path continues to the Gyoreva fountain and then to the "Tintyava" tourist hut via the "Tintyava" tourist hut-Cherni Vrukh Peak footpath. From the "Tintyava" tourist hut the route follows the hikers footpath to the "Momina Skala" tourist hut. It is possible (for beginners) to avoid the Malinarski road on leaving by going via the "Planinets" tourist hut, or passing to the north of it by heading northwest after the slight climb from the fountain at the "Momina Skala" tourist hut to the meadow northwest of the tourist hut. The ski run continues along the telephone line beside the "Planinets" tourist hut to the highway leading from Zlatnite Mostove to the Belata Voda site.

More experienced skiers instead of taking the route described above, take footpath KN II<sub>3</sub> to the Karpuzov Valog site (Dupkata). There are 2 branches beyond the sign placed above the Karpuzov Valog (Dupkata) site:

1. This follows the highway leading from the "Planinets" tourist hut to the Raztovarishteto site. The path skirts the Dupkata hollow then comes out at the Golyama Livada site, passing near the end of the Malinarskiya Road.

2. On the run between the Dupkata hollow and the Malinarskiya Road, attention must be paid to the turns, which frequently become icy. Following the Malinarskiya Road one emerges at the Golyama Livada site.

The run first follows the edge of the Golyama Livada site to the northwest and then, after crossing the cart track leading to the road construction camp, ends at the Zlatnite Mostove-Boyana highway.

If there is good snow, skiers can reach the forestry station at the Rakovets site by following the highway from the camp. Beyond the Rakovets forestry station the path leaves the highway and leads through the pine forest to Knyazhevo village.

B. Cherni Vrukh Peak-Zlatnite Mostove-Relata Voda-Knyazhevo

This run begins by the observatory at Cherni Vrukh Peak and goes west along the main ridge and the northwestern slopes below it to the saddle below Samara Peak. Here it leaves the ridge and goes first to the north and then to the northwest. Winter signposts indicate the way to the Trite Kladentsi site. After crossing the flat Selimishko plateau, the route begins to descend toward the Konyarnika site.

From there it follows footpath RD III<sub>6</sub> which leads from the "Malchika" tourist hut to the "Edelvays" tourist hut. Beyond the "Edelvays" tourist hut it is possible, by following footpaths RD III<sub>9</sub> and RD II<sub>5</sub>, to reach the "Dimitur Blagoev" tourist hut (Fonfon) and the Zlatnite Mostove site.

The "Malchika" tourist hut-"Edelvays" tourist hut footpath RD III<sub>6</sub> leads from the Konyarnika site to the "Malchika" tourist hut (Kumata); the "Boeritsa" forestry station can then be reached by following footpath KN I<sub>1</sub>. Beyond it, footpath BN III<sub>12</sub> leads to the "Bor" tourist hut. From the "Bor" tourist hut second class footpath BN II<sub>4</sub> leads to the "Tintyava" tourist hut, from which the ski run continues along the Cherni Vrukh Peak-"Tintyava" tourist hut, Belata Voda-Knyazhevo winter route.

There is a third ski run from the Konyarnika site which lies along the upper reaches of the Vladayska River, then follows the



ski path to the VVS and then along the highway leading to the Zlatnite Mostove site.

The path between the Zlatnite Mostove site and the Belata Voda site follows the highway to the turn below the Belite Brezi site. It crosses the Kisselishte site via second class footpath KN II<sub>1</sub>, emerging again on the highway above the Golyama Livada site.

#### BUILDINGS

The buildings in the Vitosha People's Park have been erected principally to accommodate hikers and visitors to the mountains. The buildings have been classified in this guide as tourist huts, shelters, stations, forestry stations, forestry points, restaurants, and rest homes according to their purpose. The above classification has not included or considered churches and monasteries. Stations have been divided into research stations and rest stations.

Within the boundaries of the Vitosha People's Park there are now 21 tourist huts, 5 shelters, 2 research and 4 rest stations, 2 forestry stations, 3 forestry points, 2 restaurants, and 3 rest homes.

#### Tourist Huts

##### "Belite Brezi" Tourist Hut

This tourist hut is at the site of the same name which lies on the western slopes of the mountains at an altitude of 1,330 m. It is a 2 story building with 28 rooms. It contains 72 beds. Its normal capacity is 80 people. It is used as a summer resort by the employees of the Ministry of Communal Economy and Public Works. It belongs to the administration and does not provide sleeping

accommodations for hikers. Hikers may use only the hall on the first floor and the buffet.

The tourist hut is open the year round.

Four footpaths start from its yard, one leading to the Zlatnite Mostove site, via the "Bay Krum" shelter -- a 30 minute trip; one leading to Rayko Daskalovo village via the Studen Kladenets and Shipeto sites -- a one hour trip; another leading to Knyazhevo via the Kisilishte and Belata Voda sites -- a 90 minute trip; and finally one leading to the "Planinets" tourist hut -- a 30 minute trip.

The tourist hut is also linked with the motor vehicle road which branches off at the 9.3 km marker on the road leading to the Zlatnite Mostove site.

#### "Planinets" Tourist Hut

The "Planinets" tourist hut is one of the most accessible and convenient ones in the park. It is built on the western slopes of the Vitosha Mountains at the Svrachar site at an altitude of 1,355 m.

It is a solid 2-story stone building with 9 rooms. A ski shed holding 100 pairs of skis and a small repair workshop have been erected near it.

It contains 100 wooden cots. It has electricity and radio and telephone communications with Sofia.

The normal capacity of this tourist hut is 100 people. It is managed by the "Spartak" DSO (Dobrovolna sportna organizatsiya,

Voluntary Sports Organization) at the MVR (Ministerstvo na vutreshnite raboti, Ministry of the Interior). It is open to visitors the year round. From the tourist hut hikers can reach the Zlatnite Mostove site in 25 minutes, the "Belite Brezi," "Momina Skala" and "Septemvri" tourist huts in the same time, and the natural sciences station "Vitosha" in about 20 minutes.

Close by are good ski runs.

#### "Septemvri" Tourist Hut

It is on the western slope of Balabana Peak, at an altitude of 1,495 m; is a solid 2-story building with 18 rooms; is well equipped; has 16 beds and wooden cots for 100 people; electricity; running water; a telephone; and a dispensary. It is managed by the "Septemvri" DSO. It is open the year round. Its normal capacity is 115 people.

Four footpaths start in the yard of the tourist hut. They lead to the "Planinets" tourist hut, the "Momina Skala" tourist hut, the "Boeritsa" forestry station, the Beli Breg site, and the Zlatnite Mostove site. The Zlatnite Mostove-"Bor" tourist highway passes 100 m to the north of the hut.

The "Septemvri" tourist hut is thus far the best equipped and organized tourist hut in the park.

#### "Momina Skala" Tourist Hut

It was built at the Stamboliyskata Livada site, on the left bank of the Boyanska River, at an altitude of 1,495 m.

Near the old building rises the new "Momina Skala" tourist hut -- a solid 2 story building of 8 rooms. It has 8 spring beds

and wooden cots for 140 people. It has electricity but no running water or plumbing. It is managed by the "Dinamo" DSO and is open to visitors the year round.

A ski base has been organized and operates there in winter.

From the yard of the hut 6 well defined and clearly marked footpaths start. They lead to Boyana, to the "Sredets," "Rodina," "Tintyava," "Septemvri," and "Planinets" tourist huts, to the Zlatnite Mostove site, and to Knyazhevo via the Malinarski Road and the Belata Voda site.

The highway leading from the Zlatnite Mostove site to the "Bor" tourist hut passes southwest of the tourist hut.

The tourist hut can be reached in 2 hours from Boyana, in 2 hours and 30 minutes from Knyazhevo, and in approximately 2 hours and 30 minutes from Rayko Daskalovo village.

#### "Sredets" Tourist Hut

It is located at the Pashin Kladenets site on the steep northern slope of the Vitosha Mountains at an altitude of 1,555 m.

The "Sredets" tourist hut is one of the largest tourist huts in the mountains. It is a huge 2-story stone building with 123 beds, electricity, and running water. It has a ski shed which holds 300 pairs of skis.

A part of the premises is used by hikers. The hut is open to visitors the year round.

There are 5 footpaths starting from the tourist hut. They lead to the "Kamen Del" tourist hut, to Boyana, to the "Momina

Skala" tourist hut, to the "Rodina," "Tintyava," and "Bor" tourist huts, and to the Kikish site. Trips to many sites originate at the tourist hut; those most frequently made are to Kamen Del Peak, which takes about 40 minutes, and to the Boyana Falls, which takes about 30 minutes, etc.

There are good ski runs in the vicinity of this tourist hut.

The main starting points to the "Sredets" tourist hut are Boyana and Knyazhevo. From any of these points the trip to the hut takes 2 hours and 30 minutes to 3 hours.

#### "Kamen Del" Tourist Hut

It is located at the Pozhara site at an altitude of 1,460 m. It is a solid 2-story building with wooden cots for 30 people. It has no electricity or running water. It is open the year round.

It is the starting point for 4 footpaths: one to the Kikish site, another to the "Sredets" tourist hut, one to the "Momina Skala" tourist hut, and one to Boyana.

From the hut the following trips can be made: to the Kamen Del Peak in one hour to 90 minutes, to the Kikish site in 40 minutes, and to the Boyana Falls in 30 minutes.

#### "Rodina" Tourist Hut

It is on the right bank of the Boyanska River on the northern slopes of the Balabana ridge, at an altitude of 1,540 m. It is a large 3 story building, second in size among the Vitosha Mountain tourist huts; has 43 rooms, one of which is occupied by the Mountain Rescue Service; is equipped with 186 beds; has electricity,

running water, and a telephone. It is open the year round and is managed by the Transportation Workers Trade Union.

At present the larger part of the tourist hut is used as a resort for blue and white collar transportation workers, and only a part of it is open to hikers.

There are good ski runs in the vicinity of the tourist hut for use in winter.

Four footpaths have their beginning there: one to the "Tintyava" and "Bor" tourist huts, one to the "Sredets" tourist hut, one to the "Momina Skala" and "Aleko" tourist huts, and one to the eastern part of the mountains.

The tourist hut is also linked with an automobile road which branches off at the Zlatnite Mostove site to the "Bor" tourist hut.

The tourist hut can be reached from Knyazhevo or Boyana. The trip takes from 2 to 3 hours.

#### "Tintyava" Tourist Hut

This hut is built at the Tintyava site on the northeastern slope of Kamen Del Peak at an altitude of 1,616 m.

It is a 4 story building with 34 rooms. Of these one is used by the Mountain Rescue Service. It has a ski shelter and a ski workshop, running water, electricity, and 151 beds. It is open to hikers the year round. A sports ground has been laid out in the yard of the hut, and a garden containing various rocks and water basins and an alpinarium has also been built.

The normal capacity of the tourist hut is 150 people. Half of the premises is used as a rest home for bank employees and the remainder is open to hikers.

Two footpaths start at the tourist hut: one leads to the "Bor" tourist hut, the "Boeritsa" forestry station, and the "Malchika" (Kumata) and "Rodina" tourist huts, and the other to the "Rodina" and "Momina Skala" tourist huts and Knyazhevo.

This tourist hut can be reached via Knyazhevo or Boyana in 2 to 3 hours. The Zlatnite Mostove-"Bor" tourist hut automobile road passes it.

#### "Bor" Tourist Hut

It is on the right bank of the Boyanska River at the Signala site at an altitude of 1,650 m. It is a solid 3 story building. It has 19 rooms of which one is used by the rescue service, 120 beds, electricity and running water. It is open to visitors the year round.

The hut is managed by the Administrative Workers Trade Union. Its normal capacity is 120 people. It is mainly used as a rest station. Tourists are not regularly accepted, especially in summer.

Two well formed and designated footpaths start in the yard of the hut: the first goes through the "Tintyava," "Rodina," and "Momina Skala," tourist huts to Knyazhevo and Boyana, and the second, to the "Boeritsa" forestry station and the "Malchika" tourist hut, with a branch to the "Septemvri" tourist hut.

This tourist hut can be reached through Boyana or Knyazhevo in about 3 hours.

"Malchika" (Kumata) Tourist Hut

It is at the southern end of the Boeritsa site at an altitude of 1,724 m.

It is a 3-story stone building with 14 rooms one room of which is used by the mountain rescue service. It has 9 beds and wooden cots for 120 people. It has running water but no electricity. It is open the year round. Its normal overnight capacity is 120 people.

Four footpaths start in the court yard of the hut. They lead to the "Edelvays" and "Dimitur Blagoev" (Fonfon) tourist huts, the Zlatnite Mostove site, and the "Boeritsa" forestry station.

The "Malchika" tourist hut can be reached through Rayko Daskalovo village in 2 hours and 30 minutes, and through Knyazhevo or Boyana in 3 and 1/2 hours.

"Aleko" Tourist Hut

It is north of the Rezniovete Peaks above the Dervishka Bachiya site at an altitude of 1,810 m.

The tourist hut was built between 1923-1924 by the "Aleko Konstantinov" Sofia Tourist Society.

It was the first tourist hut built in Vitosha.

A cable car line 740 m long is near the tourist hut.



The "Aleko" tourist hut can be reached via several hikers' footpaths. The best are those leading from Dragalevtzi, Simeonovo, and Bistritsa villages. The trip takes 3 hours and 30 minutes from Dragalevtzi village, 3 hours from Simeonovo village, and 3 hours and 30 minutes from Bistritsa village.

There are 5 footpaths starting in the court yard of the hut. They lead to Bistritsa village, Cherni Vrukh Peak, the "Tintyava" tourist hut, Dragalevtzi village, and Simeonovo village.

#### "Udarnik" Tourist Hut

The hut was built at the turn in the highway leading to the Romanski monument, 800 m from the "Aleko" tourist hut and at an altitude of 1,610 m.

It is a prefabricated wooden barracks with 2 dormitories. Its capacity is about 30 people. This is a temporary tourist hut being used as a base until a solid building is constructed. Now it is mainly used to satisfy the needs of the "Udarnik" organization.

#### "Cherni Vrukh" Observatory

It was built at an altitude of 2,285 m. It is a solid 2 story stone building. It can sleep 3 or 4 people, but nonservice personnel may not sleep in the observatory. An exception is made only in very poor weather, such as storms and blizzards.

#### "Selimitsa" Tourist Hut

It is at the Lenishtata site below the Selimitsa Peak at 1,305 m altitude.

It is a 2 story building with 9 rooms. It has 30 spring beds, is open the year round, and has electricity and running water.

There are 16 cottages near the "Selimitsa" tourist hut which make up a single rest home facility used by the "Minyor" DSO in Dimitrovo. Two small artificial lakes have been built and a few footpaths laid out.

There are 4 footpaths which start in the yard of the tourist hut. They lead to the "Tanchovitsa" rest house, Kladnitsa village, the "Ostritsa" tourist hut and Cherni Vrukh Peak.

There are convenient ski runs in the vicinity of the hut.

#### "Ostritsa" Tourist Hut

This hut is also called "Broks" after hiker and engineer Kh. Broks. It is located below Ostritsa Peak at an altitude of 1,700 m.

It is a solid 2 story building with 12 rooms. It has beds and cots for 52 people, and electricity and running water. The normal capacity of the hut is 60 people.

It is managed by the "Minyor" DSO in Dimitrovo. It is open the year round.

There are 4 footpaths starting from the yard of the hut. They lead to the "Selimitsa" tourist hut, to Rayko Daskalovo village via the Yurushki Bridge site, to the "Dimitur Blagoev" (Fonfon) tourist hut via the Trandafila site, and to the "Edelvays" tourist hut.

Ostritsa Peak is 10 minutes to the south of the hut.

The main approaches to the hut are from Rayko Daskalovo, Kladnitsa, and Knyazhevo villages. The trip takes 2 hours from Rayko Daskalovo, 3 hours from Knyazhevo, and 90 minutes from Kladnitsa village via the "Selimitsa" tourist hut.

#### "Edelvays" Tourist Hut

It is in a beautiful coniferous forest east of Ostritsa Peak at an altitude of 1,692 m.

It is a solid 2 story building with 4 rooms, has 12 beds and cots for 60 people, running water but no electricity. Its normal capacity is 70 people. It is open the year round.

Three footpaths start from the yard of the tourist hut. They lead to the "Ostritsa" tourist hut, to the "Dimitur Blagoev" tourist hut, and to the "Malchika" tourist hut.

The "Edelvays" tourist hut is an important starting point for trips to Cherni Vrukh Peak, which can be reached from this point in about 2 hours.

The trip to the hut is most frequently made via Knyazhevo and Rayko Daskalovo villages. In the first case it takes about 3 hours and 30 minutes and in the second, about 2 hours and 30 minutes.

#### "Malina" Tourist Hut

It is on the right bank of the Fonfonska River at an altitude of 1,500 m. The hut is small. It has 3 rooms, and cots and beds for 6 to 8 people. It is not used the year round.

Near the hut is one of the most frequently visited sites in the Vitosha Mountains -- the Yavorova Meadow.

The hut can be reached by a 10-minute trip from the "Dimitur Blagoev" (Fonfon) tourist hut.

"Dimitur Blagoev" (Fonfon) Tourist Hut

This hut is at the most beautiful Dautitsa site at an altitude of 1,460 m.

It is a solid stone building with 32 rooms one of which is used by the Mountain Rescue Service. It has a special ski-shed and a workshop for ski repairs, is equipped with 130 beds and 45 cots, and has running water and electricity. Its normal capacity is 175 people.

Three footpaths originate in the yard of the hut. They lead to Rayko Daskalovo village, via the Pazarishteto site, which trip takes 2 hours and via the musicologists' tourist hut, which takes approximately the same time; to the Zlatnite Mostove site -- a 20-minute trip; to the "Malchika" tourist hut, via Dautov Hill and the forestry point -- a one hour trip; to the "Edelvays" tourist hut -- 50 minutes; and to the "Ostritsa" tourist hut -- a one hour trip.

About 20 minutes away from the hut is the "Vitoshka Konferentsiya" site, where the secret conference of the BKP (BCP, Bulgarian Communist Party) was held in 1924.

The main paths leading to the hut pass through Knyazhevo -- the trip via this route takes about 3 hours -- or through Rayko Daskalovo village, making a 2-hour trip.

"Radio Sofia" Tourist Hut

It is on the eastern slope of Vladayski Cherni Vrukh Peak at an altitude of 1,480 m and is northeast of the actors' tourist hut and north of the "Dimitur Blagoev" tourist hut.

The "Radio Sofia" tourist hut is a solid 2 story building with 13 rooms. It has 20 beds and cots for 20 people, running water, and electricity. It is open the year round. Its normal capacity is 40 people.

The "Radio Sofia" tourist hut is an administration building to which itinerant hikers are not admitted.

The direct footpath leading from the "Dimitur Blagoev" tourist hut to Rayko Daskalovo village, and the so-called Kuku-zelska path which branches off at the Pazarishteto site from the footpath leading from Rayko Daskalovo village to the Zlatnite Mostove site, pass the "Radio Sofia" tourist hut.

The trip to the hut is most frequently made via Rayko Daskalovo village, which is approximately 2 hours away.

Tourist Hut of the Theater Workers (Actors)

It is very near the "Dimitur Blagoev" tourist hut and in the midst of a beautiful coniferous forest. It is at an altitude of 1,470 m, and is a solid 2 story building with 10 rooms. It has 37 beds and 12 cots, electricity, and running water.

This tourist hut is an administration building in which hikers are not allowed. It can be reached from Rayko Daskalovo village in 2 hours, and from Knyazhevo, via the Zlatnite Mostove site in about 3 hours.

### Musicologists' Tourist Hut

It is at the Vladayski Konyarnik site, on the northeastern slopes of Vladayski Cherni Vrukh Peak, at an altitude of 1,460 m.

The hut is a small 2 story building with 9 rooms. It has 14 beds, running water, and electricity. It is open the year round. It is considered an administration building and is used mainly during the summer resort season. Hikers are not permitted to visit it.

This hut can be reached by following the direct footpath RD II<sub>2</sub> for one hour and 45 minutes from Rayko Daskalovo village from the Zlatnite Mostove site via Knyazhevo about [illegible].

### Shelters

#### "Karpuzov Valog" Shelter

It was built at the Karpuzov Valog site at an altitude of 1,250 m. It is to the right of first class footpath KN I<sub>1</sub> and northwest of the fountain on the same site. It is a small wooden prefabricated one-room building 3 by 4 m in area. It was built to provide temporary shelter from rain, snow, and wind for hikers finding themselves at this important hiking crossroads in the park. Its normal capacity is 10 people, but in case of need it can accommodate a considerably more hikers.

Three benches placed along the walls. There is no janitor, but the shelter is open at all times.

One may not spend the night in the shelter.

"Bay Krum" Shelter

It is at the Pogledets site. It lies to the right of second class path RD II<sub>3</sub> which leads from Rayko Daskalovo village in the Zlatnite Mostove site via the Brezite site. It is a small one-room house not very solidly built. It is divided into 2 cubicles.

It is used by hikers as a temporary shelter.

"Tri Kladentsi" Shelter

It was built at the Tri Kladentsi site at an altitude of 1,940 m, and is to the right of first class footpath KM<sub>1</sub> which leads from the "Malchika" tourist hut to Cherni Vrukh Peak. It is a typical high mountain building, entirely of stone. It has only one room.

Its purpose is to offer temporary shelter in bad weather to hikers going to or returning from Cherni Vrukh Peak.

A small river flows along in front of the shelter. Its water is good for drinking.

The shelter has no janitor and is open the year round. Spending the night in it is prohibited.

"Ushite" Shelter

It is at the Ushite site at an altitude of 1,843 m, and near footpath TN<sub>3</sub> leading from the "Tintyava" tourist hut via the Ushite site to the "Aleko" tourist hut. It is a small one-room prefabricated wooden hut 3 by 4 m in area. It is intended to provide temporary facilities for hikers crossing from the western to the eastern part of the mountain via the Platoto site.

Its normal capacity is 10 people. It is equipped only with benches.

The shelter is open to the hikers at any time.

One may not spend the night in it.

#### "Bay Krustyo" Shelter

It is above the Dragalevski Monastery and the Gradishte site, near the highway to the "Aleko" tourist hut. It is 7 km from the Dragalevtsi village, and is located at an altitude of 1,400 m. It is a small building with 2 rooms and an entry hall.

It has no electricity or telephone line.

#### "Romanski" Shelter

It is near the Romanski monument at an altitude of 1,663 m. It is a small wooden hut.

It is mostly used as storage premises for fuel, food, and other materials to be carried up to the tourist hut or the observatory.

#### Stations

##### (a) Scientific-Research

"Vitosha" Natural Science Station. It is at the Beli Breg site at an altitude of 1,450 m. Hikers and visitors to the park know it as the "Tourist Hut of the BAN" (Bulgarska akademiya na naukite, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences).

It is built in beautiful Bulgarian style, has 2 floors and 15 rooms, 31 beds, and 12 wooden cots. It has electricity but has no running water.



There is a well organized alpineum in the vicinity of the station.

There are no well marked or traced footpaths to the station since hikers' visits to it are restricted. The trip to the station is made via Knyazhevo and takes from 2 hours to 2 hours and 30 minutes.

"Zlatni Mostove" Geomagnetic Station. It is at the Zlatnite Mostove site at an altitude of 1,470 m and is known as the "Geological and Mining Research," and the "Geologists' Station."

The Geomagnetic station at the Zlatnite Mostove site is a comparatively new and solid 2-story building. It has 12 rooms and 31 beds. It has running water and electricity.

The station is open the year round, but is not open for hikers. It is considered an administration building and is used only by the employees of the Geological and Mining Research Administration.

The trip to the station is made via Knyazhevo or Rayko Daskalovo. The first route takes about 2 hours and 30 minutes to cover, and the second, about 90 minutes.

The station can be reached by motor vehicle as well.

#### (b) Rest Homes

Military Rest Home (VVS). It is built at the southern end of the Dautov Rid site at an altitude of 1,550 m.

The military rest home is the park's largest resort building. It has 2 stories and 91 rooms, 183 beds, running water, and electricity.

The home is considered an administration building. It is open the year round but forbidden to hikers.

There are good locations for skiing nearby, and a special ski run has been laid out by the home. There is a ski base at the home.

The Military Rest Home has a central location in the mountains. From it hikers can reach the "Putniya Kanton" site in 5 minutes, the "Malchika" tourist hut in 35 minutes, the "Boeritsa" forestry station in 40 minutes, the "Dimitur Blagoev" tourist hut and the "Edelvays" tourist hut in 30 minutes, and the Zlatnite Mostove site in 15 minutes.

The trip to the home is made on foot through Rayko Daskalovo village and takes 2 hours. The home can be reached by motor vehicle via the Boyana-Zlatnite Mostove highway and branching from it, the specially built road to the home.

The Trade Union Cottages. These are at the Pankyovoto site on the right bank of the Vladayska River at an altitude of 1,180 m. They are a group of 4 cottages; 2 have one floor and the others 2 floors. There are a total of 22 rooms and 41 beds. The cottages have electricity and running water.

They are 40 minutes from Rayko Daskalovo village. They can be reached by the footpath which runs between Rayko Daskalovo and the Zlatnite Mostove site. They are also connected with Rayko Daskalovo village via the "Flochite" Quarry by motor vehicle road. They are used as a resort by the employees of the TsSPS (Tsentralen suvet na profesionalnite suyuzi, Central Council of the Trade Unions). They are considered administration buildings, and hikers are not allowed in them.

Ministry of Construction Rest Home. The home is about one km above Simeonovo village and above the pine forest at an altitude of 1,000 m. It is a 2 story building.

Rest Home of the "Verila" Factory. The home is above Simeonovo village at an altitude of 1,100 m about 1,500 m from the bus stop. It is in a beautiful forest meadow.

It is a 2 story building.

Bulgarian Investment Bank Rest Home. It is at the Tslenkov Dol site about 1.5 km southeast of Bistritsa village. It is a small one-story prefabricated wooden house with 4 rooms. The normal capacity of the home is 40 people.

"Tanchovitsa" Rest Home. It is at the Tanchovitsa site about 3 km southeast of Kladnitsa village and about 1.8 km from the nearest tourist hut, which is "Selimitsa." It is used as a summer camp for children. It is a huge, solid, one-story building with large rooms. Terraces circle the building.

A small artificial lake has been created for summer swimming.

#### Forestry Stations and Points

##### "Boeritsa" Forestry Station

It is at the Boeritsa site, near the Chernata Skala site at an altitude of 1,699. It is used by the technicians and workers engaged in the construction and management of the park.

The "Boeritsa" forestry station is a beautiful 3-story building with 11 rooms. It has running water but no electricity. There are 2 footpaths starting in the yard of the station and one road.

The footpath to the "Bor" tourist hut goes off to the northwest, and the footpath leading to the south goes to the "Malchika" tourist hut.

The "Boeritsa" forestry station can be reached from Knyazhevo, Rayko Daskalovo, and Boyana villages. The trip from Rayko Daskalovo takes 2 hours and 30 minutes; the trips from the other starting points take between 3 hours and 30 minutes to 4 hours.

#### "Brezovitsa" Forestry Station

It is at the Brezovitsa site, only a few meters from the highway to the "Aleko" tourist hut. It is 8.5 km from Dragalevtsi village.

It is above the Zhelezni Vrata site at an altitude of 1,511 m. It consists of 2 stories and an attic. It is only used for service purposes. Day or night visits by nonservice personnel are not permitted. It has running water and electricity.

#### "Boyansko Ezero" Forestry Point

It is at the Ralevitsa site, southeast of Boyana and at an altitude of 1,020 m.

It is a small 2 story building with 6 rooms, has 15 beds, running water, and electricity.

Five footpaths begin in the yard of the forestry point. They lead to the Dragalevski Monastery, to the Yanevitsa meadow, and thus to the "Kamen Del," the "Sredets" and "Momina Skala" tourist huts, to Boyana via the Shilestiya Kamuk site, to Boyana via the Glavite site, and to Boyana via the branch from the Boyana-"Tintyava" tourist hut footpath.

The point is used for service premises and is not for hikers.

The clandestine press of the BCP was once located near the point, at the Razturenata Skala site.

The point can be reached via Boyana village in about one hour.

"Karkuma" Forestry Point

It is at the Karkuma site. It is a small one-story building with wooden paneling. It is used only for service purposes.

"Zlatnite Mostove" Forestry Point

It is at the northern end of the Zlatnite Mostove site near the Zlatnite Mostove-"Bor" tourist hut highway at an altitude of 1,475 m.

It is a small wooden building, has electricity and a telephone line to the city.

Rest Points and Others

"Belata Voda" Restaurant

It stands at the Belata Voda site to the right of the Boyana-Zlatnite Mostove highway. Here hikers are served warm meals, tea, food products, and drinks. It is open the year round.

"Dragalevski Monastir" Restaurant

It is near the Dragalevski Monastery and serves food and drinks. It is open the year round.

Rest Point "Zlatnits Mostove"

It is in a small wooden building on the right bank of the Vladayska River. Here hikers are served tea, food products, sweets, and drinks.

Fruit and vegetables are sold here in summer. It is open the year round.

"Momina Skala" Rest Point

It is a small wooden building in the meadow in front of the "Momina Skala" tourist hut. It sells sweets, tinned foods, and drinks. It is open only in summer.

"Mechkarnika" Rest Point

It is near the main footpath between Knyazhevo and the "Malchika" tourist hut.

It sells tinned foods, sweets, drinks, milk, and milk products.

It is open most of the year.

HIKING ROUTES

As a mountain site, the Vitosha People's Park offers many possibilities for resort activities. Utilization of it is made considerably easier by its comparatively large size, the variety of its topography, and its closeness to the capital. The extensive communications network also helps increase the number of daily visits paid to it.

Today the park can be reached via several roads which start from various points and which cross great distances in direct routes.

However such trips are not always made purposefully and after proper reflection. They are often particularly haphazard when the party is composed of school pupils or those coming to the park for the first time. That is why it is imperative that we indicate certain of the most practical hiking routes which should be considered in planning hikes.

These have been divided into one-day and 2-day trips, according to season -- summer or winter trips.

#### SUMMER TRIPS

##### One-Day Trips

1. Starting at Rayko Daskalovo village. This trip is made along first class footpath RD I<sub>7</sub> leading to the Zlatnite Mostove site. Visits include the moraines and the "Vitosha" Natural Science Station with its alpineum.

The return trip through the Beli Breg site and via the "Planinets" tourist hut along second class footpath KN II<sub>4</sub> and first class footpath KN I<sub>1</sub>, past the shelter at the Karpuzov Valog site and through the Belata Voda site, and thus to Knyazhevo.

This is an 11.9-km trip.

2. Starting from Rayko Daskalovo village. The route follows second class footpath RD II<sub>1</sub> past the quarries and the Yurushki Most site, as far as the "Ostritsa" tourist hut. It climbs to Ostritsa Peak and includes a visit to the lake at the "Studena" Dam, the "Lenin" DMZ, and Dimitrovo city. A visit to the Vitosha Konferentsiya site, Yavorova meadow, and the "Dimitur Blagoev" tourist hut on second class footpath RD II<sub>5</sub> are also included.

The return is via the route described for the preceding trip (to Knyazhevo).

The trip is 18.780 km long.

Note: If so desired, the above described can be covered in reverse.

3. Starting from Knyazhevo. The route follows first class footpath KN I<sub>1</sub>, and then the old Belata Voda road. It passes through the Belata Voda site to the Karpuzov Valog site. From there, via second class footpath KN II<sub>3</sub>, hikers reach the "Momina Skala" tourist hut.

The return trip follows second class footpath BN II<sub>4</sub> and includes a visit to the Boyana Falls which lie on third class footpath BN III<sub>16</sub>. From there, first class footpath BN I<sub>2</sub> leads past (or one can cross) Boyana Lake, to Boyana.

The trip is 11.060 km long.

4. Starting from Knyazhevo, at the Cherniya Kos site. The route follows third class footpath KN III<sub>1</sub> to the Noevetsa site. From there it takes second class footpath RD II<sub>4</sub> to the Kiselishte site and thus to the "Belita Brezi" tourist hut, via second class footpath KN II<sub>1</sub>.

Visits to the "Planinets" tourist hut, which lies on third class footpath KN III<sub>13</sub>, and to the "Momina Skala" tourist hut on third class footpath KN III<sub>9</sub>, are included.

The return route leads through the Golyamoto Kopito site on second class footpath KN II<sub>3</sub> and third class footpath KN III<sub>8</sub>. The



descent to Boyana is via third class footpath BN III<sub>10</sub> and second class footpath BN II<sub>1</sub>.

The trip is 12.470 km long.

Note: The trip from Knyazhevo to the Cherni Kos site can be made via the bus which goes to Rayko Daskalovo village, or on foot via third class footpath KN III<sub>2</sub>.

5. Starting from Boyana. The route follows first class footpath BN I<sub>2</sub> and second class footpath BN II<sub>4</sub> to the "Momina Skala" tourist hut. The trip includes a visit and sightseeing at the falls on third class footpath BN III<sub>16</sub>.

The return trip goes through the Malkoto Kopito site and through Knyazhevo, first, via second class footpath KN II<sub>3</sub> to the intersection with second class footpath KN II<sub>2</sub>, then following it across the Malkoto Kopito site and the Knyazhevo pine forest to Knyazhevo.

The trip is 10.960 km long.

6. Starting from Boyana. The route follows third class footpath BN III<sub>2</sub> to Boyana Lake, and then turns off on third class footpath DR III<sub>1</sub> to the Dragalevski Monastery. A visit to the monastery is included.

The return trip lies through Dragalevtsi village via first class footpath DR I<sub>3</sub>.

The trip is 8.550 km long.

7. Starting from Dragalevtsi village. The route follows first class footpath DR I<sub>3</sub> to the "Bay Krusty" shelter and the

Brezovitsa forestry station via the Dragalevski Monastery. A tour of the monastery should be made. From the "Bay Krustyo" shelter the route follows second class footpath DR II<sub>5</sub> to the Kikish site and from there leads to the "Kamen Del" tourist hut via third class footpath BN III<sub>8</sub>.

The return trip via Boyana follows second class footpath BN II<sub>2</sub> and first class footpath BN I<sub>2</sub>.

The trip is 11.600 km long.

8. Starting from Simeonovo village. The route follows first class footpath SM I<sub>4</sub> to the Gorna Plocha site. From there it follows the new circumference footpath which crosses the Kalet and Gorsko Gradishte site and leads to the Dragalevski Monastery. Visits to the Alekovi Falls and the monastery are included.

The return trip is via first class footpath DR I<sub>3</sub> through Dragalevtsi village.

The trip is 8.3 km long.

9. Starting from Bistritsa village. The route follows first class footpath BS I<sub>5</sub> through the reserve to the Karkuma forestry point. A tour of the reserve should be made. From the Karkuma forestry point the route follows second class footpath SM II<sub>2</sub> to the Brezovitsa forestry station.

The return trip is through Simeonovo village via first class footpath SM I<sub>4</sub>.

The trip is 16.140 km long.

### Two-Day Trips

1. Starting from Knyazhevo. The route follows first class footpath KN I<sub>1</sub> to the "Malchika" (Kumata) tourist hut, where the hikers spend the night. On the second day, there is a climb to Cherni Vrukh Peak along footpath KM I<sub>1</sub>.

The return is via footpath AL<sub>2</sub> to the "Aleko" tourist hut and from there along first class footpath DR I<sub>3</sub> to Dragalevtsi village.

The trip is 25.940 km long.

2. Starting from Boyana. The route follows first class footpath KN I<sub>2</sub> to the "Tintyava" tourist hut and then leads along footpath TN [illegible] to the "Aleko" tourist hut, where the hikers spend the night. On the second day the trip includes a climb to Cherni Vrukh Peak via footpath AL<sub>2</sub>.

The return trip is made via Knyazhevo, following footpath KM<sub>1</sub>, and then first class footpath KN<sub>1</sub>.

The trip is 30.550 km long.

3. Starting from Simeonovo village. The route follows first class footpath SM I<sub>4</sub> to the "Aleko" tourist hut, where the hikers spend the night. On the second day the hikers climb to Cherni Vrukh Peak along footpath AL<sub>2</sub>.

The return trip is made via Rayko Daskalovo village. The route follows footpath KM<sub>1</sub> to the "Malchika" tourist hut, and then leads along first class footpath RD I<sub>7</sub> through the Zlatnite Mostove site to the village.

The trip is 25.160 km long.

Note: The routes for the 2-day trips indicated above may be reversed. Two-day trips not including Cherni Vrukh Peak can be planned.

#### WINTER TRIPS

Considering the difficulties of movement on foot during this part of the year, excursion routes must be considerably shorter than those planned for summer.

In planning winter hikes it must be remembered that the regular clearing away of snow is done only along the following footpaths: KN I<sub>1</sub> from Knyazhevo to the "Planinets" tourist hut, BN I<sub>2</sub> from Boyana to the "Sredets" tourist hut, DR I<sub>3</sub> from Dragalevtzi village to the Dragalevski Monastery, and RD I<sub>7</sub> from Rayko Daskalovo village to the Zlatnite Mostove site.

The motor vehicle road from Boyana to the Zlatnite Mostove is also cleared regularly to make it passable for hikers.

#### THE VITOSHA MOUNTAINS TOMORROW

The Vitosha Mountains are the largest natural forest park serving Sofia. They have every necessary facility for hiking and skiing. They are included in the network of parks lying outside Sofia proper and constitute approximately 1/3 of the total area of that network.

Despite the constant increase in the number of hikers, the mountains still remain largely unexplored by most of the thousands of Sofia's residents due to the lack of adequate transportation

facilities: 1/2 of the entire mountain territory is never visited at all, and only 1/3 of it can be said to possess the necessary basic facilities for skiing and hiking. Because of the adequate transportation facilities and their closeness to Sofia, the sites between the "Tintyava" tourist hut and the Zlatnite Mostove site are the most frequented. On Sundays they are overcrowded with hikers. Other regions, such as the Kikish and Bistritsa sections of the Vitosha Mountains, including the Reznovete, Skoparnika, and Kopenite Peaks, and the entire western sector of the mountains, see practically no hikers, due mainly to the lack of sleeping premises.

The importance of the Vitosha Mountains as a central hiking base for Sofia necessitated their development as a people's park.

A general plan for the people's park was first drafted with a view to the best use of the park area for the various forms of rest, for hiking and cultural occupations. The mountains are divided into 3 zones by this plan; each of these is distinctive in its topography, climate, and other aspects, as follows. (1) The low mountain zone, border at 1,100 m altitude and about 1,200 m altitude at the Matnitsa River valley -- this zone offers facilities for long rest periods, for the construction of rest homes and sporting grounds. (2) The central mountain zone, upper border at an approximate altitude of 1,800 m, suitable for short rest periods (2-3 days) or one-day group trips -- the plan for this zone envisages the construction of tourist huts, hotels, mountain shelters, ski bases, etc, with a view to these aspects. (3) High mountain zones, located above the central zone -- it will be used for hiking and skiing, and the plan for this zone envisages construction of tourist huts, high mountain hotels, mountain shelters, etc.

The construction plan envisages the installation of 5,000 beds in rest homes, the low mountain zone, to be used for long rest periods; 1,300 beds in tourist huts and shelters in the central mountain zone, to be used for short rest periods; and 1,500 beds in tourist huts, hotels, and shelters in the high mountain zone to be used for short rest periods.

The mountain area will contain 4 main tourist centers -- Aleko, Tintyava, Zlatnitsa Mostove, and Matnitsa, and secondary hiking footpaths with individual isolated tourist huts at the necessary intervals.

To insure safe routes between the tourist centers and huts, particularly in the more remote parts of the mountain, shelters between the centers and the tourist huts will be built along the more important paths. These shelters will serve as tourist huts with a small capacity (wooden cots for from 10 to 20 people). The sites were chosen after consultation with the rescue service of the BChK (Bulgarski cherven krust, Bulgarian Red Cross) in the central and high mountain zones.

The Vitosha people's park will soon have a capacity of an average of 90,000 visitors per day and a maximum capacity of 120,000 people. Of these 10,000 are expected to come from Dimitrovo.

Hikers will be transported (by street car, railroad, and bus) to the villages of the foothills of the Vitosha Mountains; they will be divided (on the basis of the number of hikers and their interest in each individual part of the mountains) into main, second class, and intermediary starting basis: Dragalevtzi, Knyazhevo, Aleksandrov Bridge, Bistritsa, Kladnitsa, Rayko Daskalovo, Boyana, Simeonovo,

Zheleznitsa, Yarema, Nozhichovitsa, Rakitka, Murchaevo, Rudartsi, Cherniya Kos, and Shumako.

The plan envisages the transportation of hikers from Sofia to the sub Vitosha villages along the already existing Sofia-Knyazhevo street car line, which will be extended to the Aleksandrov Bridge; the Pavlovo-Boyana street car line, which will be improved and provided with double tracks; and the newly planned Sofia-Dragelevtsi-Bistritsa street car line, which carry special electrically powered coaches.

The railroad lines will carry hikers from Sofia and Dimitrovo to the Cherniya Kos site, Rayko Daskalovo village, and Dragichevo village. Fewer hikers will be carried by these lines than by the street car lines.

The unpleasant climb from Knyazhevo to the Belata Voda site will be avoided by the construction of a cable car line from Knyazhevo to Rakovets; it will be capable of handling much of the traffic.

Autobus lines linking the sub Vitosha villages not linked by street car or railroad lines are planned. Such autobus lines will be established between Yarema, Nozhichovitsa, Zheleznitsa, Rakitka, Rudartsi, and Murchaevo villages.

Street car lines will be the principal means of mass transportation to the sub Vitosha villages. They will have a capacity of 63,000 persons, or 70% of the hikers, daily. The railroads will handle 14,000 hikers or 16% of the total, and the bus lines will handle 13,000 people, or 14% of the total.

Hikers will arrive at the tourist huts in the mountains via the high mountain roads and cable lines, with cars or individual seats, leading to the Kopitoto site, the "Sredets" tourist hut, the Kamen Del site, the "Aleko" tourist hut (Zeleniya Vrukh Peak), and the Piperkata Peak (from Bistritsa village).

A Vitosha Mountains circumference road is envisaged to service hikers and the future development of the sub Vitosha villages properly. Certain segments of this road already exist (for example the Rayko Daskalovo-Knyazhevo-Boyana-Dragalevtsi segment and the Bistritsa-Zheleznitsa-Yarema segment) while others will have to be improved or rebuilt (for example the Rayko Daskalovo-Rudartsi-Murchaev-Bosnek-Chupetlovo segment through Kovachevtsi to Yarema).

Five cable car lines are envisaged for the mountains: A cable line with cars from Rakovets to the Kopitoto site, with a capacity of 600 passengers per hour will constitute one. This line will serve hikers wanting to go from Knyazhevo to the Tintyava and Zlatnits Mostove sites. A cable line, with pairs of individual seats, to run from Boyana to Sredets will have a capacity of 300 passengers per hour, and will serve the Tintyava, Kikish, and Boyana Lake area. A cable line with cars will run from Dragalevtsi to Kamen Del and will have a capacity of 300 people per hour. It will run directly to a high mountain hotel at the Kamen Del site and will serve the entire high mountain zone. A cable line with individual seats will run from Dragalevtsi to Goli Vrukh site and will have a capacity of 300 people per hour. It will service the Aleko region principally. This line is already under construction, and a part of it, between Dragalevtsi and the "Bay Krustyo" shelter, is already operating. A cable line with individual seats will run



from Bistritsa village to the Karkuma (Piperkata) site, and will be directly linked with the hotel planned for the same area. This line will also service the eastern part of the Aleko area as well as the most remote hiking sites such as, for example, Golyam Kupan Peak, the reserve, Skoparnika Peak, etc.

Apart from these installations, there will also be short ski lifts leading to the ski runs at the Balabana site, the Tintyava site, etc, for example. They will be similar to the ski lift already in operation in the Aleko area.

The main footpath network conforms to the dome-like structure of the Vitosha Mountains and consists of radial footpaths which connect the hikers' starting points -- the sub Vitosha villages -- Kladnitsa, Murchaevo, Rudartsi, Rayko Daskalovo, Knyazhevo, Boyana, Dragalevtzi, Simeonovo, Bistritsa, Zheleznitsa, Bosnek and Chupetlovo, with the main mountain centers and with Cherni Vrukh Peak, and concentric footpaths which service the 3 zones of the mountain (low mountain zone, central mountain zone, and high mountain zone).

The Vitosha People's Park will develop into a ski base not only for Sofia but for all Bulgaria.

In this connection the plan for the mountains envisages the construction of 5 ski jump areas of varying dimensions, 5 new ski areas, 14 ski runs, sledding runs, skating bases, as well as bases for water sports, sports grounds, and mountain climbing bases.

Of the mountains surrounding Sofia, Vitosha offers hikers the best scenic views because of the great height of its peaks and ridges and its central geographical location. The plan envisages

the construction of over 15 vantage points for scenic views in the park. They will be equipped with orientation apparatus which will indicate the 4 points of the compass and will explain the different views.

The 2 reserves already existing in the park -- the coniferous reserve and the turf reserve -- will be preserved. It is proposed that hikers and visitors be allowed into the coniferous reserve under certain conditions and with proper supervision. This will necessitate the construction of a few footpaths as well as a small guard house. Other installations in the reserve or very near it will be prohibited. The plan recommends an increase in the variety of wild life in the park.

#### HIKERS' HANDBOOK. USE OF THE PARK

##### Park Regulations

A special directive has been issued to clarify the regulations governing the Vitoaha People's Park, which forbid:

damaging vegetation, nature protection sites, and park installations;

contaminating springs, water areas, meadows, vicinities of tourist huts, fountains, etc;

removing soil, sand, gravel, stones, sod, humus, etc;

picking flowers, roots and seeds, medical and aromatic plants, and bushes;

placing notices, posters, appeals, etc, on hedges, trees, etc;

hunting birds; fishing; the destruction of birds' nests, the presence of dogs not on leash;

lighting fires except at indicated places, the discarding of burning cigarettes, and other actions which might start a fire.

Camping in the park, the organization of group hikes, expeditions, entertainment, competitions, etc, on a local or regional scale must be approved by the park administration in advance.

For minor violations a fine of up to 2 leva will be imposed and a receipt will be given; more serious violations will result in a court summons and the imposition of a fine of up to 400 leva.

#### Fire Prevention in the Park

The danger of fire, which is particularly great in summer, requires hikers in the park to be very careful and attentive in regard to camp fires for a long camping or rest stay. The starting of fires should be avoided, and when it is necessary, they must be built only in the places designated for that purpose. Hikers must comply faithfully and promptly with fire prevention measures and must see to it that other visitors to the park also comply with them.

If in spite of precautions a fire breaks out, the first person to notice it must immediately undertake to extinguish it by covering it with soil, pouring water on it, or beating it with green branches tied together like a broom. At the same time the nearest tourist hut or rest home must be notified and asked for help.

If the fire has already become too big to be extinguished with the available manpower, the administration of the park must be notified immediately by phone. The numbers are: 6-10-34, 6-17-91, and 6-17-92 for the Park Administration, and 6-25-22 and 0-6 for the Regional Fire Prevention Service. Calls can be made from any telephone set in a tourist hut, rest or other station indicated in the guide.

In response to a general fire alarm, all tourists, workers, and employees in the park, including the people in the rest homes, must immediately go to the site of the fire and place themselves at the disposal of the person in charge of the fire fighting.

#### Visits to and Use of Tourist Huts

The tourist huts and shelters built in the park are very important in fostering and popularizing trips in the park. Thanks to these installations hikers make trips to the mountains at any time of the year and count upon secure shelter and comfortable sleeping accommodations.

The tourist huts and shelters must not refuse anyone shelter, or give priority to one person rather than another. In accordance with existing regulations, only drunks and persons failing to produce identification papers can be excluded from them.

Space for the night or for a rest period is allotted on the basis of order of arrival, priority being given to women and children. Men will spend the night in premises separate from those for women. The reservation in advance of overnight accommodations, except for organized expeditions, ski competitions, and excursion holidays organized by the DSPS, will not be allowed.

Upon arrival at a tourist hut visitors must place their rucksacks and skis in the places designated for that purpose and must observe the established regulations. If necessary they may use the stove and utensils available in the hikers' kitchen, but they must return them washed and clean. After the meal, each visitor will clean his own table and will dispose of leavings and containers properly.

It is prohibited to make noise, to eat, drink alcoholic beverages, to smoke or to play games of chance in the sleeping quarters.

Visitors will pay the established fees for the use of the premises and the utensils of the tourist huts.

Mountain Rescue Service (PPS, Planinska Spasitelna Sluzhba)

The task of the Mountain Rescue Service is to insure immediate and competent medical first aid to all accident victims on the mountain, such as hikers, alpinists, skiers, etc. For this it has established a network of rescue stations and staffs them every Saturday, Sunday, and holiday, with voluntary rescue personnel and doctors.

The rescue service of the "Vitosha" People's Park operates the year round. The shifts are divided by time and place, as follows:

From 15 December to 15 April

1. "Cherni Vrukh" meteorological observatory -- rescue team.
2. "Aleko" tourist hut -- doctor and rescue team.
3. "Tintyava" tourist hut -- doctor and rescue team.

4. "Rodina" tourist hut -- rescue team.
5. "Bredets" tourist hut -- rescue team.
6. "Momina Skala" tourist hut -- rescue team.
7. "Planinets" tourist hut -- doctor and rescue team.
8. "Malchika" (Kumata) tourist hut -- doctor and rescue team.
9. "Eielvays" tourist hut -- rescue team.
10. "Ostritsa" tourist hut -- rescue team.
11. "D. Blagoev" tourist hut (Fonfon) -- doctor and rescue team.
12. "Mekicharnika" shelter -- rescue team.
13. Rescue base in Knyazhevo -- rescue team.

From 16 April to 14 December

1. "Aleko" tourist hut -- doctor and a rescue worker.
2. "Tintyava" tourist hut -- doctor and rescue.
3. "D. Blagoev" (Fonfon) tourist hut -- doctor and rescue.

Note: The "Bor," "Kamen Del," "Septemvri," "Selimitsa," "Musicologists'," "Radio Sofia," and "Artists'" tourist huts, the rest homes of the air force (VVS), the Belite Brezi, and all the rescue stations indicated above have first aid kits to provide medical first aid. They do not have aspirin, mixed powders, quinine, sulfathiazole, etc. Hikers are urged to bring with them personal first aid kits containing these medicines not obtainable at the tourist huts.

To aid in rendering first aid and in evacuating the injured, the service has equipped all rescue stations with special stretchers and sleds, in addition to certain basic medicines.

Appeals to the Mountain Rescue Service, in case of mountain accidents, can be made by hikers going in that direction, by shouting,

whistling, firing shots, etc. In case of night accidents signals with lights, lanterns, electric torches, etc, can be made.

#### MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

##### Rates for the Use of the Premises and Equipment of Tourist Huts

#### I. Sleeping

School pupils, up to the eleventh grade, inclusive, and bearers of the "People's Tourist" pin

per bed	2.50 leva
per cot	1.50 leva

Sportsmen belonging to organized groups pay:

per bed	4.00 leva
per cot	2.00 leva

All other visitors pay:

per bed	6.00 leva
per cot	3.00 leva

Note: The above fees include one blanket. The fee for a second blanket is 0.50 leva. An additional fee for heating, which varies between 0.50 and 1 leva, depending on whether it is a private room or a dormitory, will be charged in winter.

If 2 people sleep in one bed, the fees will be reduced by 25%, for those making sleeping arrangements outside the sleeping premises, there will be a reduction of 50% on the fee for a cot.

## II. For Daytime Sojourns

All hikers resting in tourist huts and shelters will pay a fee of 1 leva in winter and 0.50 leva in summer. No such fee will be collected from hikers who slept or who will sleep overnight at the tourist hut or shelter.

### Telephone Numbers

#### Forestry Stations and Nurseries

Nursery -- Knyazhevo	5-70-12
Nursery -- Freedom Park (the Hunting Park)	6-21-29
"Boeritsa" forestry station	5-70-21
"Zlatnite Mostove" forestry station	5-70-21
"Brezovitsa" forestry station	6-70-22

#### Tourist Huts and Rest Homes

"Planinets"	5-70-21
"Septemvri"	5-70-21
"Sredets"	5-60-26
"Tintyava"	5-62-15
"Bor"	5-62-15
"Rodina"	5-69-26
Military Rest Home (VVS)	6-25-91
"Aleko"	6-70-22
Geomagnetic station (Geological and Mining Research)	5-71-59
"Cherni Vrukh" Observatory	6-70-22
Restaurant at the Dragalevski Monastery	6-70-20



### People's Soviets

Knyazhevo	5-72-26
Boyana	5-69-07
Dragalevtsi	6-70-10
Simeonovo	6-21-44

Note: The people's soviets in Rayko Daskalovo, Bistritsa, Zheleznitsa, and Kladnitsa villages can be reached by dialing operator No 01.

### Sanitary Epidemiological Stations, Fire Departments, Etc.

Sanitary Epidemiological Station fourth rayon	5-53-06
Sanitary Epidemiological Station sixth rayon	7-39-20
Sanitary Epidemiological Station, Sofia	7-13-76
Fire Prevention Service fourth rayon	6-25-22
Fire Prevention Service fourth [sic] rayon	5-70-28
Mountain Rescue Service (PSS)	5-30-31

### Peaks and Rivers in the Park

#### (a) Altitude of Peaks

Cherni Vrukh	2,285 m	Goli Vrukh	1,837 m
Golyam Rezen	2,278 m	Ostrets	1,836 m
Skoparnik	2,228 m	Konyarnika	1,794 m
Maluk Rezen	2,191 m	Belchova Skala	1,831 m
Samara	2,108 m	Vulchata Skala	1,670 m
Golyam Kupon	2,106 m	Ostritsa	1,695 m

Luvcheto	2,052 m	Vladayski Cherni Vrukh	1,641 m
Selimitsa	2,048 m	Ianhova Mogila	1,603 m
Siva Gramada	2,003 m	Kominite	1,600 m
Sredets	1,969 m	Golinata	1,478 m
Bistrishki Kupen	1,930 m	Kikish	1,430 m
Ushite	1,906 m	Razturena Skala	1,364 m
Boychinov Rid	1,877 m	Kopitoto	1,300 m
Mecha Dupka	1,901 m	Boyov Rid	1,223 m
Chernata Skala	1,869 m	Sui Vrukh	1,146 m
Kamen Del	1,862 m		

Note: The altitude of peaks has been taken from the general-staff map, scale: 1:25,000.

(b) Length of Rivers Within the Park Borders

Struma	8.8 km	Rakovets	3.7 km
Matnitsa	3.5 km	Yanchevska	5 km
Kladnitsa	4.3 km	Dragalevska	5 km
Rudartsi	4.1 km	Boyanska	7.2 km
Murchaevska	2.5 km	Vladayska	8.1 km
Bistritsa	5.1 km		

Distance Between Tourist Huts in Km

"Selimitsa" - "Ostritsa" (Broks)	2.925
"Ostritsa" - "Dimitur Blagoev" (Fonfon)	3.380
"Ostritsa" - "Edelvays"	1.590
"Dimitur Blagoev" - "Edelvays"	1.880
"Dimitur Blagoev" - "Radio Sofia"	0.425
"Dimitur Blagoev" - "Musicologists"	0.980
"Edelvays" - "Malchika" ("Kumata") via the Konyarnika site	2.520

"Edelvays" - "Kumata" (through the forest)	2.150
"Malchika" - "Boeritsa" Forestry Station	0.920
"Malchika" - "Bor" (through Chernata Skala Peak)	2.550
"Malchika" - "Bor" (via Balabana Ridge)	2.280
"Momina Skala" - "Bor"	1.100
"Momina Skala" - "Sredets"	0.780
"Sredets" - "Tintyava"	0.580
"Kamen Del" - "Sredets"	0.730
"Kamen Del" - "Momina Skala"	1.150
"Planinets" - "Momina Skala"	1.070
"Planinets" - "Belite Brezi"	1.200
"Septemvri" - "Boeritsa" Forestry Station	2.100
"Septemvri" - "Bor"	1.160
"Brezovitsa" Forestry Station - "Aleko"	2.600
"Brezovitsa" Forestry Station - "Udarnik"	1.800
"Udarnik" - "Aleko"	0.800

Notes on Certain Geographical and Other Names in the Text of the Guide

Alekovi Falls -- along the Skakavets River above Simeonovo village; are named after the great Bulgarian writer and hiker Aleko Konstantinov, who visited them often.

Vatiya -- the fortress whose ruins can still be distinguished on the Momina Skala site south of Boyana; Vatiya was the name of the ruler of the fortress.

Begler -- Begler or Beyler-Chiflik is the old name of the present sub Vitosha village Simeonovo. It is presumed that this was the farm of the Rumelian Begler Bey (high administrative

employee in the administrative hierarchy of the Ottoman Empire). Until 1775 the population of the village worked as farm hands on the farm; after this they purchased a part of the property but continued to pay a percentage on their produce.

Bistritsa Reserve -- is a part of the park area in the water basin of the Bistritsa River which is restricted in order to preserve Vitosha vegetation and further its study. Hiking is allowed only along the footpaths.

Bosnek -- a small sub Vitosha village along the Struma River, known since ancient times for its wealth in oriferous sand; its name comes from that of an immigrant from Bosnia who settled here. Here a stone altar slab bearing the figure of the soldier deity Mitra was found in 1881.

Buda -- a clearly defined ridge between Bistritsa and Simeonovo villages. Its name has no connection with the Indian reformer. According to Pavel Deliradev the origin of the name must be sought in connection with the woman's first name Buda or Budinka, which was once popular in Bistritsa village.

Vitoshka Konferentsiya -- a site on the southern slopes of Vladayski Cherni Vrukh Peak. Here, on 17 and 18 May 1924, the first clandestine party conference of the BCP after the failure of the September Rebellion, was held. A commemorative stone has been placed at the site of the conference.

Gadzhovitsa -- a site above the Boyana Falls. Here third class footpath BN III<sub>18</sub> leading to the Karanova Livada site branches off. Its name probably stems from that of the former family of sheep dealers -- Gadzhevi -- from Panagyurishte city, which owned the meadows in the neighborhood.

Gradishteto -- is about 2 km northeast of Boanek on the right bank of the Struma River. All along the southern slope of this formerly fortified height the outlines of buildings and remnants of brick, wide tile, and pieces of large sized earthenware can be seen.

Romanski Grave -- is at the last turn on the Dragalevtsi-"Romanski" shelter highway. In 1933 Pavel Romanski, a philology student, perished in a snow storm where the monument now stands.

Burdarov's Grave -- is at the Beli Breg site, above and on the left of the Mandrata site by the "Septemvri" tourist hut-"Boeritsa" forestry station footpath. Here the hiker Dimitur Burdarov, a student in classical philology, perished on 21 December 1929 in a storm.

Kotse's Grave -- is to the left of the footpath leading from the "Malchika" tourist hut to the "Edelvays" tourist hut, on the edge of the plateau. It was placed there by the comrades of Kostadin D. Stefanov from Knyazhevo who committed suicide in this vicinity on 12 June 1924.

Itkova Fountain -- stands to the northeast of the "Ostritsa" tourist hut. It is named after the hiker and mountaineer Itko Todorov from Sofia, who died on 11 February 1938. The fountain is a monument to mountaineering comradeship and attachment raised by his comrades.

Kapaklievets -- is a wide, beautiful plateau northwest of the Reznovete Peaks, where the Dragalevska River starts. Here, on 6 August 1905, the cornerstone of the first tourist hut in Bulgaria was laid on the occasion of the twenty-eighth anniversary of

the Liberation of Bulgaria, and the fifth anniversary of the foundation of the "Aleko Konstantinov" Bulgarian Tourist Society. Construction on this hut was later abandoned; in its stead between 1922 and 1924 the "Aleko" tourist hut was built.

Karanova Meadow -- is an important intersection point for the roads and footpaths starting at Boyana. It bears the name of the family Karanovi of Boyana, who long owned this site by inheritance.

Karkuma -- a site above the Katunishte ridge in which the sheep of the nomad shepherds once were shorn. Today a small forestry point has been placed at this site, past which several footpaths lead.

Katunishte -- a wide watershed ridge in the eastern part of the mountain. Once the huts or camps of the shepherds who used the neighboring high mountain pastures were located here.

Kikish -- is a site in the Dragalevtzi village area. It contains remains of a Thracian Holy Place. The name itself is not of Slavic origin. Years ago a small shelter was built here. It later burned.

Lilina Meadow -- is the name of the meadow near the "Edelvays" tourist hut. It was named in memory of the noted hiker and member of the "Edelvays" tourist society Liliya Chernodrinska, who participated actively in the construction of the tourist hut.

Mekhancheto -- a small meadow in the middle of the Coniferous Reserve, about 4.5 km above Bistritsa village. It is believed that some revolutionaries hid here during the Turkish enslavement.

Ostritsa -- is a beautiful Vitosha peak directly above the "Ostritsa" ("Broks") tourist hut. From it a wide scenic view opens out to the north, west, and south. The whole lake at the Studena Dam can be seen from here. The name comes from the sharp, needle-like form of the peak.

Pazarishteto -- a site below the Zlatnite Mostove site, on the left bank of the Vladayska River. It is connected with the ore production industry in the mountains. It has been known since the fifteenth century.

Petrov Grave -- located not far from the "Aleko" tourist hut at the Sinite Skali site. Here the hiker Petur Dimitrov died in a blizzard on 23 December 1923. His body was recovered in May of the following year.

Sergeevoto Well -- is below the Vulchata Skala Peak. It was named after the young and energetic hiker Georgi Sergeev, who died below the Boyana Falls on 29 July 1923. He was the secretary of the Sofia branch of the Bulgarian Tourist Society.

Stepanitsa -- a site on the left bank of the Fonfonska River, near the place at the Pazarishteto site where the Kukuzelska path branches off. Old people say a serious fight between the Vladaya and Obelets villages about forest ownership occurred here long ago.

Tsvetna Meadow -- is east of the "Brezovitsa" forestry station. The old name of the meadow was Shikova Voda. The Tsvetna Meadow is the new name. It was so named by hikers because of its great wealth of mountain flowers.

Chernata Skala -- is a peak in the water shed group of peaks in the Vitosha Mountains. It is south of the "Bor" tourist hut and north of the "Boeritsa" forestry station. From the west it looks like a dangerous and imposing peak. It was given its name because of the dark aspect which it lends to the high mountain view.

Yavorova Meadow -- is above the "Dimitur Blagoev" tourist hut. It is a well known hiking center. It was so named after the bust of Yavorov was placed on one of the neighboring crags. It has no direct connection with the life and work of the poet Yavorov.

#### ALPHABETICAL INDEX TO THE MAP OF THE VITOSHA PEOPLE'S PARK

##### Method of Using the Index

Sites should be sought in the square formed by the horizontal letters and the perpendicular (vertical) figures on the map given after each region.

For example. We are interested in finding the Kiselishte site. First we look for the name under the letter K on page 144 of the guide. After the word Kiselishte we see the signs L,5. This means that the site we are looking for will be found in the square of the map where the vertical line starting at figure 5 intersects with the horizontal line starting at letter L.

All the regions of interest to us are looked for the same way.

A		Actors, tourist hut	L,7
Aleko, tourist hut	Zh,9	B	
Al, footpath	Zh,11	Bay Krustyo, shelter	E,7
Aslanov hill	L,15	Balabanovets, site	M,5



BAN, natural science station	K,6	BN III <sub>14</sub> , footpath	I,5
Belcheva Skala, peak	D,14	BN III <sub>15</sub> , footpath	I,5
Boyana Lake	Z,5	BN III <sub>6</sub> , footpath	Z,5
Boyana, village	Z,3	BN III <sub>7</sub> , footpath	Z,5
Boyana falls	I,5	BN II <sub>2</sub> , footpath	Z,5
Belite Brezi (MKSB)	L,6	BN I <sub>2</sub> , footpath	Z,5
/Ministerstvo na komunalnoto stopanstvo i blagoustroystvo, Ministry of Communal Economy and Public Works/ tourist hut		BN III <sub>1</sub> , footpath	I,4
		BN II <sub>1</sub> , footpath	I,4
		BN III <sub>13</sub> , footpath	I,6
		BN III <sub>11</sub> , footpath	I,6
Byalata Voda, site	K,4	BN III <sub>14</sub> , footpath	I,6
Bistrata Voda, river	V,12	BN II <sub>3</sub> , footpath	I,6
Bistritsa, village	B,9	BN III <sub>5</sub> , footpath	Z,6
Bistrishka River	N,6	BN III <sub>8</sub> , footpath	Z,2
Bor, tourist hut	I,6	BS I <sub>5</sub> , footpath	G,10
Boyov Rid, site	L,6	BS III <sub>2</sub> , footpath	D,11
Boeritsa, forestry station	I,8	Boyanska River	I,5
		V	
Brezovitsa, forestry station	D,8	VVS, Military Rest Home	K,8
Bukara, site	K,5	Vladayski Konyarnik, site	L,7
Bukite, site	V,14	Vladayska River	L,7
BS III <sub>1</sub> , footpath	D,10	Verila, rest home	G,7
BN III <sub>12</sub> , footpath	I,7	Voychinov Rid, site	E,15
BS II <sub>1</sub> , footpath	E,9	G	
BN III <sub>3</sub> , footpath	Z,4	Gladni Rid, site	B,15
BN II <sub>2</sub> , footpath	Z,5	Golyama Livada, site	L,4
BN III <sub>4</sub> , footpath	Z,4	Golyam Rezen, peak	Zh,11
BN III <sub>16</sub> , footpath	I,5	Golyama Garvanitsa, site	M,13
BN III <sub>18</sub> , footpath	I,5		

Golyama Gramada, site	E,11	Z	
Golyam Kupen, peak	D,12	Zlatnite Mostove, forestry station	K,7
Goliya Vrukh Peak	Zh,8	Zlatnite Mostove, site	K,7
Gradishte, site	E,7	I	
D		Itkova founta	M,9
Dimitur Blagoev (Fonfon) tourist hut	K,8	K	
Dragalevtzi, village	D,5	Kamen Del, peak	Z,7
DR III <sub>1</sub> , footpath	E,6	Kamennoto building	I,7
DR II <sub>3</sub> , footpath	E,6	Quarries of the SGNS (Sofiyiski Gradski naroden suvet, Sofia city people's soviet)	M,7
DR I <sub>3</sub> , footpath	E,8	Karkuma, forestry point	D,10
DR II <sub>1</sub> , footpath	E,6	Kladnitsa, village	O,11
DR III <sub>6</sub> , footpath	E,6	KL I <sub>6</sub> , footpath	M,10
DR III <sub>4</sub> , footpath	E,6	KM <sub>1</sub> , footpath	I,9
DR III <sub>5</sub> , footpath	E,6	Kamen Del, tourist hut	Z,5
DR II <sub>2</sub> , footpath	E,6	Konyarnika, site	M,7
DR III <sub>3</sub> , footpath	Zh,6	Kominite, peak	Zh,8
DR II <sub>4</sub> , footpath	E,7	Kopitoto, peak	K,4
DR III <sub>9</sub> , footpath	E,7	Kikish, site	Zh,6
DR II <sub>5</sub> , footpath	Zh,7	Knyazhevo	I,2
DR III <sub>10</sub> , footpath	Zh,7	Kiselishte, site	L,5
DR II <sub>2</sub> , footpath	E,6	Krusta, peak	L,13
DR III <sub>4</sub> , footpath	E,6	Kumata (Malchika), tourist hut	I,8
E		KN III <sub>3</sub> , footpath	L,4
Edelvays, tourist hut	L,9	KN III <sub>4</sub> , footpath	L,4
ED <sub>4</sub> , footpath	K,9	KN I <sub>1</sub> , footpath	K,5
Zh		KN II <sub>2</sub> , footpath	K,4
Zheleznitsa, village	B,14		
Zheleznishka River	V,14		
Zhivata Voda, spring	M,14		

KN III <sub>5</sub> , footpath	K,4	N	
KN III <sub>8</sub> , footpath	K,5	Nakev Kamuk, site	L,11
KN II <sub>4</sub> , footpath	K,6	Noevitsa, site	M,5
KN III <sub>1</sub> , footpath	L,4	O	
KN II <sub>3</sub> , footpath	K,5	Ostrets, peak	L,9
KN III <sub>6</sub> , footpath	K,5	Ostritsa (Broks), tourist hut	M,9
KN III <sub>7</sub> , footpath	K,5	Orpsovite Cottages	M,6
KN III <sub>9</sub> , footpath	K,6	Ofeliite, site	KL,8
KN II <sub>4</sub> , footpath	K,6	P	
KN III <sub>13</sub> , footpath	K,6	Planinets, tourist hut	K,6
KN III <sub>12</sub> , footpath	K,6	Planinitsa, river	L,5
KN III <sub>10</sub> , footpath	K,6	Piperka, peak	E,10
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Lyava River	V,13	Rayko Daskalovo (Vladaya), village	N,5
Lyuti Dol, site	L,4	Rakovets, forestry station	K,4
M		Radio Sofia, tourist hut	L,7
Malinarski Road	L,4	The Reserve	D,11
Malkoto Kopito, peak	K,5	Romanski, site	E,9
Matnitsa River	N,12	Rotsov Kamuk, site	M,5
Malkiyat Rezen, peak	Zh,10	Rodina, tourist hut	I,6
Mecha Polyana, site	E,10	Rudarska Hamlet	P,9
Ministry of Construc- tion, rest home	G,7	RD III <sub>1</sub> , footpath	M,4
Mining and Geological Research, station	K,7	RD II <sub>3</sub> , footpath	M,6
Momina Skala, tourist hut	I,6	RD I <sub>7</sub> , footpath	M,6
Momina Skala, site	I,4	RD III <sub>2</sub> , footpath	L,6
Musicologists', tour- ist hut	L,7	RD II <sub>2</sub> , footpath	M,7
Murchaevo, village	O,7	RD III <sub>3</sub> , footpath	K,7

RD II <sub>5</sub> , footpath	L,8	Sredets, tourist hut	Z,6
RD III <sub>9</sub> , footpath	L,8	Stara Reka River	G,7
RD II <sub>4</sub> , footpath	M,4	Sukhi Peak	Z,5
RD III <sub>5</sub> , footpath	K,9	T	
RD III <sub>6</sub> , footpath	K,9	Tintyava, tourist hut	Z,6
RD II <sub>1</sub> , footpath	N,7	TN <sub>2</sub> , footpath	Zh,7
RD III <sub>7</sub> , footpath	L,9	Trendafila, site	L,8
RD III <sub>8</sub> , footpath	L,9	Tri Kladentsi, shelter	I,10
S		Tri Kladentsi, site	I,10
Samara, peak	I,11	Turksiyat Put, KN III <sub>3</sub>	L,4
Samodivska Polyana, site	D,9	U	
Sveti Nikola, monastery	I,11	Ushite, shelter	Z,7
Selimitsa, tourist hut	M,10	Ts	
Selimitsa, peak	K,10	Tsurni Vrukh Peak	L,8
Septemvri, tourist hut	K,6	Ch	
Semovitsa, site	Z,4	Chernata Skala, peak	I,7
Siva Gramada, site	E,15	Cherni Vrukh Peak	Z,11
Simeonovo, village	V,6	Cheresha, site	I,5
Simeonovska, river	D,7	Charniya Kos, site	M,3
Skakavitsa, river	D,7	Chupetlovo, village	K,15
Skoparnik, peak	E,12	Sh	
Skakavets, site	I,5	Shevovitsa, site	G,13
SM I <sub>4</sub> , footpath	D,7	Yu	
SM II <sub>1</sub> , footpath	D,9	Yurushki Most, site	M,8
SM I <sub>4</sub> , footpath	D,9	Ya	
SM III <sub>1</sub> , footpath	E,9	Yanchevska River	D,9
Sredets, peak	Z,9	Yarema, site	V,16

## FIGURE CAPTIONS

[Front page of original] Map. Vitosha Mountains in the system of parks outside Sofia.

[page 11 of original] "Zlatni Mostove" Stone River.

[page 14 of original] The Stone River from Cherni Vrukh Peak to the Platoto.

[between pages 16 and 17 of original] Top: Anemones of the "Vladayskite karieri" site. Bottom: Iris of the "Kopitoto" site.

[page 19 of original] On the road toward "Aleko" tourist hut.

[page 27 of original] View toward the Malkiya Rezen Peak.

[between pages 28 and 29 of original] Map. Legend: (1) Highway; (2) Footpaths; (3) Peak; (4) Fountain; (5) Moraine; (6) Spring; (7) Water Reservoir Zone; (8) Boundary of the Park; (9) Boundary of the Mountain Zone.

[between pages 32 and 33 of original] Anemones of the "Zlatnite Mostove" site.

[between pages 38 and 39 of original] Map. Legend: (1) Highway; (2) Footpaths; (3) Peak; (4) Moraine; (5) Fountain; (6) Spring; (7) Boundary of the Park; (8) Boundary of the Mountain Zone.

[page 47 of original] Boyana Falls in winter.

[between pages 48 and 49 of original] Flower at the Boyana Falls.

[Between pages 50 and 51 of original] Map. Legend: (1) Highway;  
 (2) Footpaths; (3) Peak; (4) Lift; (5) Moraine; (6) Fountain;  
 (7) Spring; (8) Water Reservoir Zone; (9) Reserve; (10) Park  
 Boundary; (11) Mountain Zone Boundary.

[page 51 of original] Along the Dragalevska River Valley -- Kominite  
 Peak in the background.

[page 55 of original] The ski lift Dragalevtzi Village-"Bay Krustyo"  
 shelter.

[Between pages 60 and 61 of original] Map. Legend: (1) Highway;  
 (2) Footpaths; (3) Peak; (4) Lift; (5) Spring; (6) Fountain;  
 (7) Park Boundary; (8) Mountain Zone Boundary.

[Between pages 64 and 65 of original] Map. Legend: (1) Highway;  
 (2) Footpaths; (3) Peak; (4) Lift; (5) Water Reserve Zone;  
 (6) Spring; (7) Fountain; (8) Reserve; (9) Park Boundaries;  
 (10) Mountain Zone Boundary.

[page 67 of original] Stone rivers near the "Aleko" tourist hut.

[page 69 of original] Rock phenomenon at the Rezena Peak.

[Between pages 72 and 73 of original] Map. Legend: (1) Footpaths;  
 (2) Peak; (3) Fountain; (4) Moraine; (5) Turf site; (6) Water  
 Reservoir Zone; (7) Park Boundary; (8) Mountain Zone Boundary.

[Between pages 77 and 78 of original] Map. Legend: (1) Highway;  
 (2) Footpaths; (3) Peak; (4) Moraine; (5) Fountain; (6) Water  
 Reservoir Zone; (7) Park Boundary; (8) Mountain Boundary Zone.

[Between pages 80 and 81 of original] Primulas at the "Tsvetna  
 Polyana" site.

[page 84 of original] The observatory on Cherni Vrukh Peak.

[page 85 of original] Slalom near the "Aleko" tourist hut.

[between pages 96 and 97 of original] Gentian at the "Reznyovete" Peak.

[between pages 96 and 97 of original] Map. Legend: (1) Highway;  
(2) Footpaths; (3) Peak; (4) Moraine; (5) Fountain; (6) Spring;  
(7) Water Reservoir Zone; (8) Mountain Boundary Zone.

[page 98 of original] "Septemvri" tourist hut.

[page 104 of original] "Ostritsa" tourist hut.

[page 105 of original] "Edelvays" tourist hut.

[page 107 of original] "Tonfon" tourist hut.

[page 122 of original] Shelter at the Kominite site.

[page 123 of original] Blueprint for shelter in Central Mountain Zone.

[page 124 of original] Idea for the "Vitoshko lake" tourist hut at the "Aleko" center.

[page 126 of original] Draft idea for terminal station of the Knyazhevo-Kopitoto cable car line.

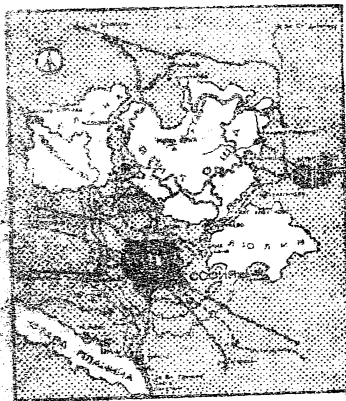
[page 131 of original] View toward Kamen Del Peak.

[last page of original (photostat)] Legend: (1) Automobile Road;  
(2) First Class Footpath; (3) Second Class Footpath; (4) Third Class Footpath; (5) Park Boundary; (6) Mountain Zone;  
(7) Tourist Lift; (8) Tourist Hut; (9) Rest Home; (10) Tourist

Shelter; (11) Rest Point; (12) Forestry Station; (13) Monastery;  
(14) Moraine; (15) Peak; (16) Water Reservoir Zone; (17) Spring;  
(18) Fountain; (19) Coniferous Reserve.



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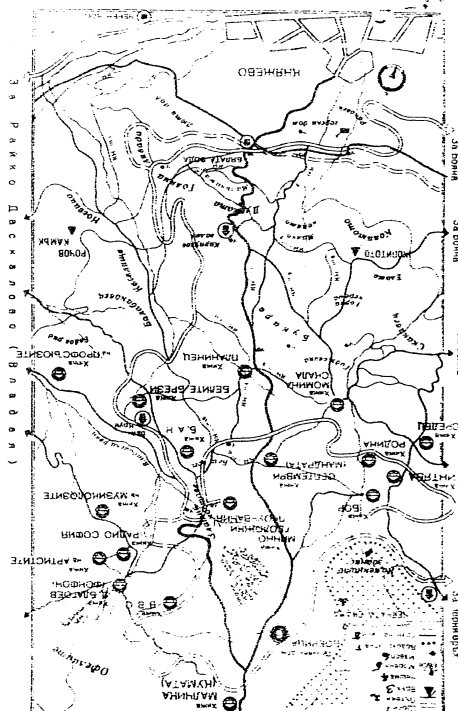
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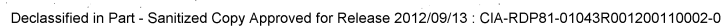


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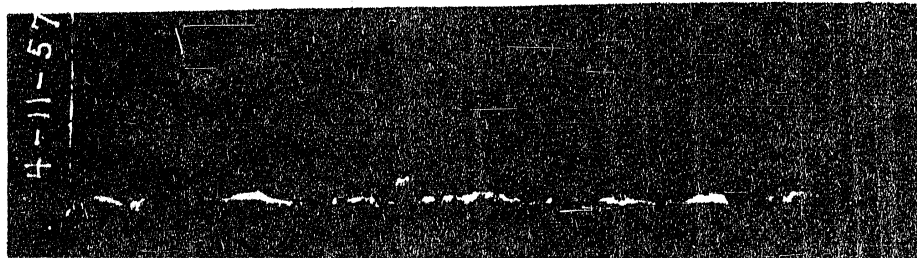
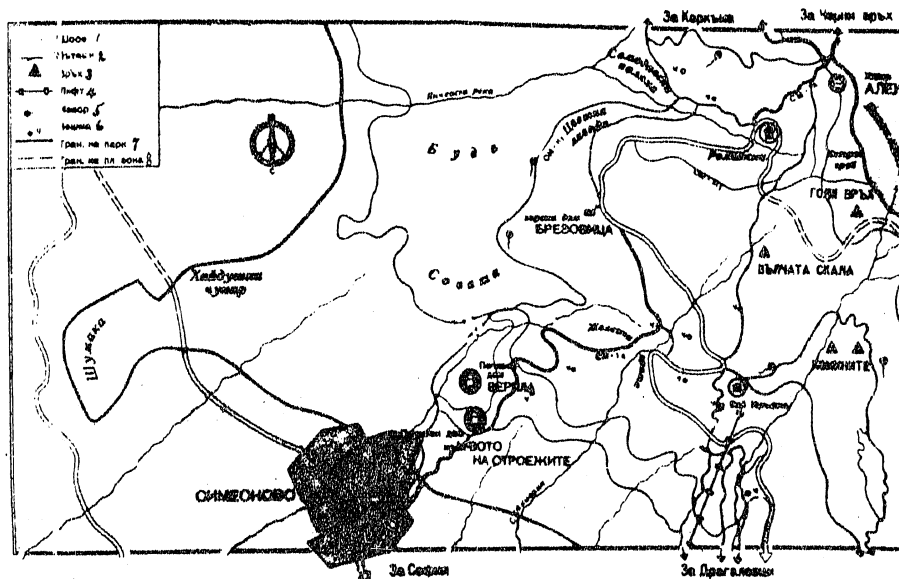


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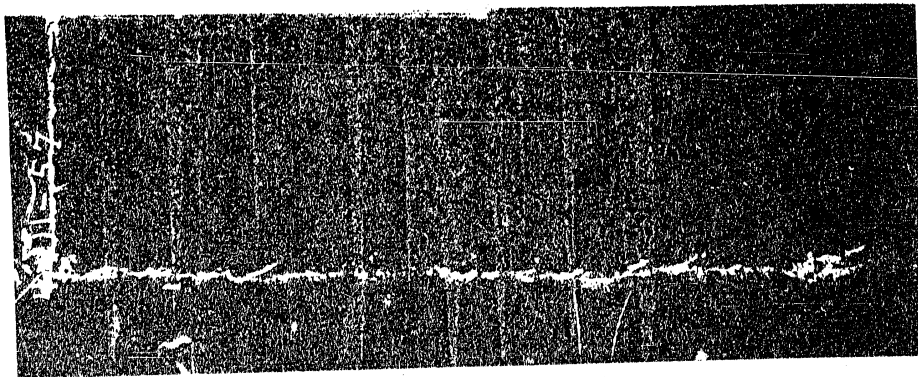
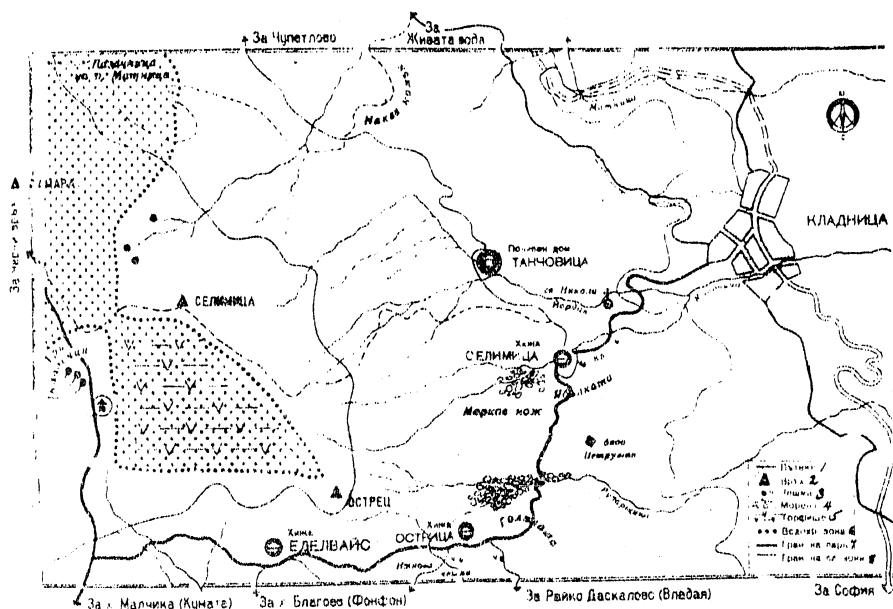
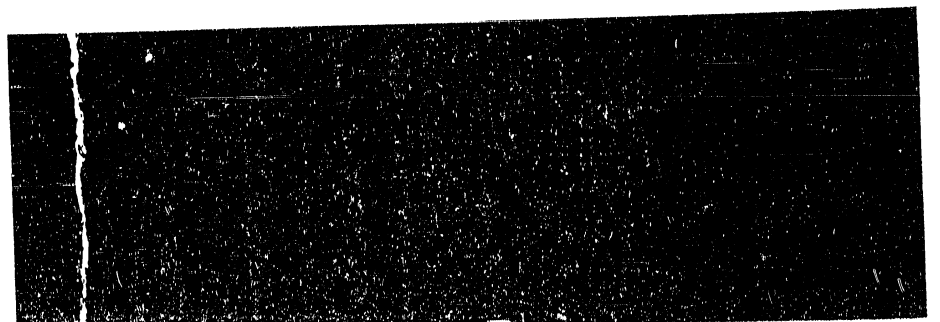




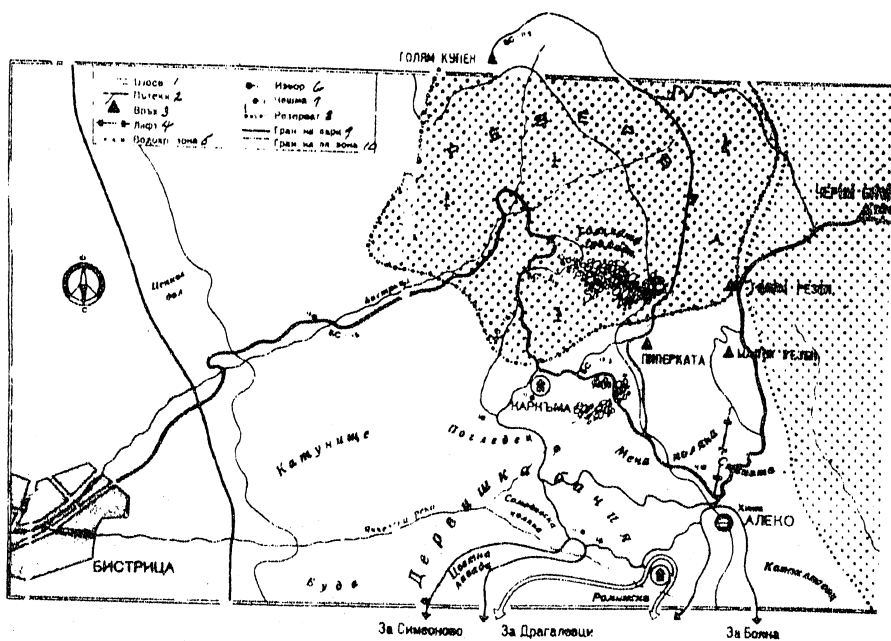
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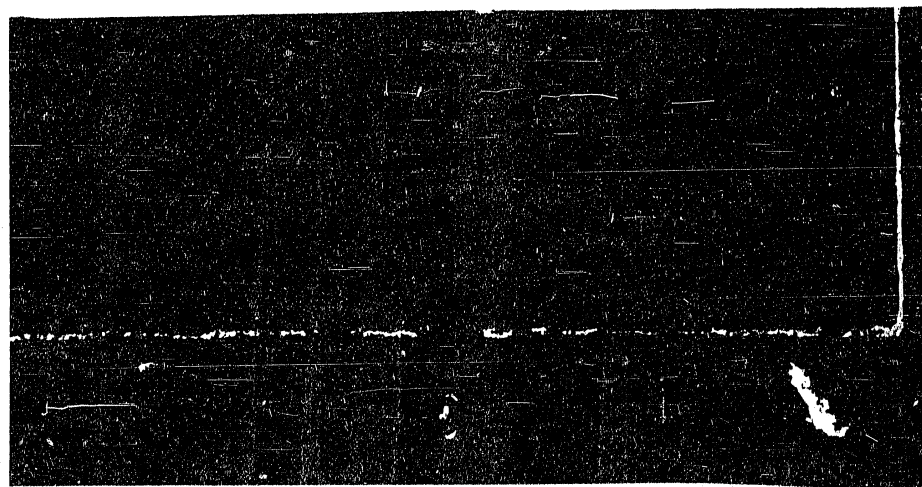
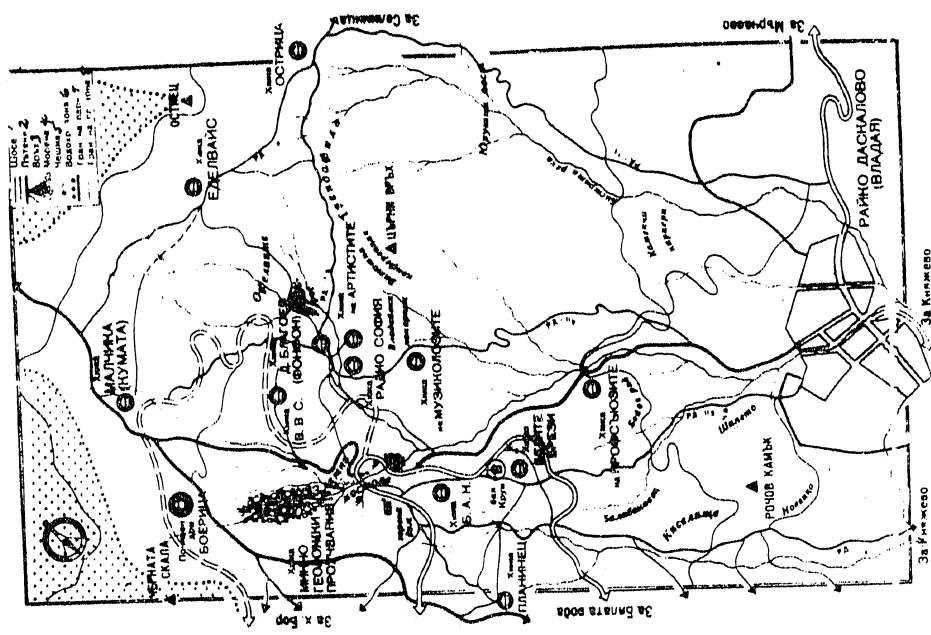


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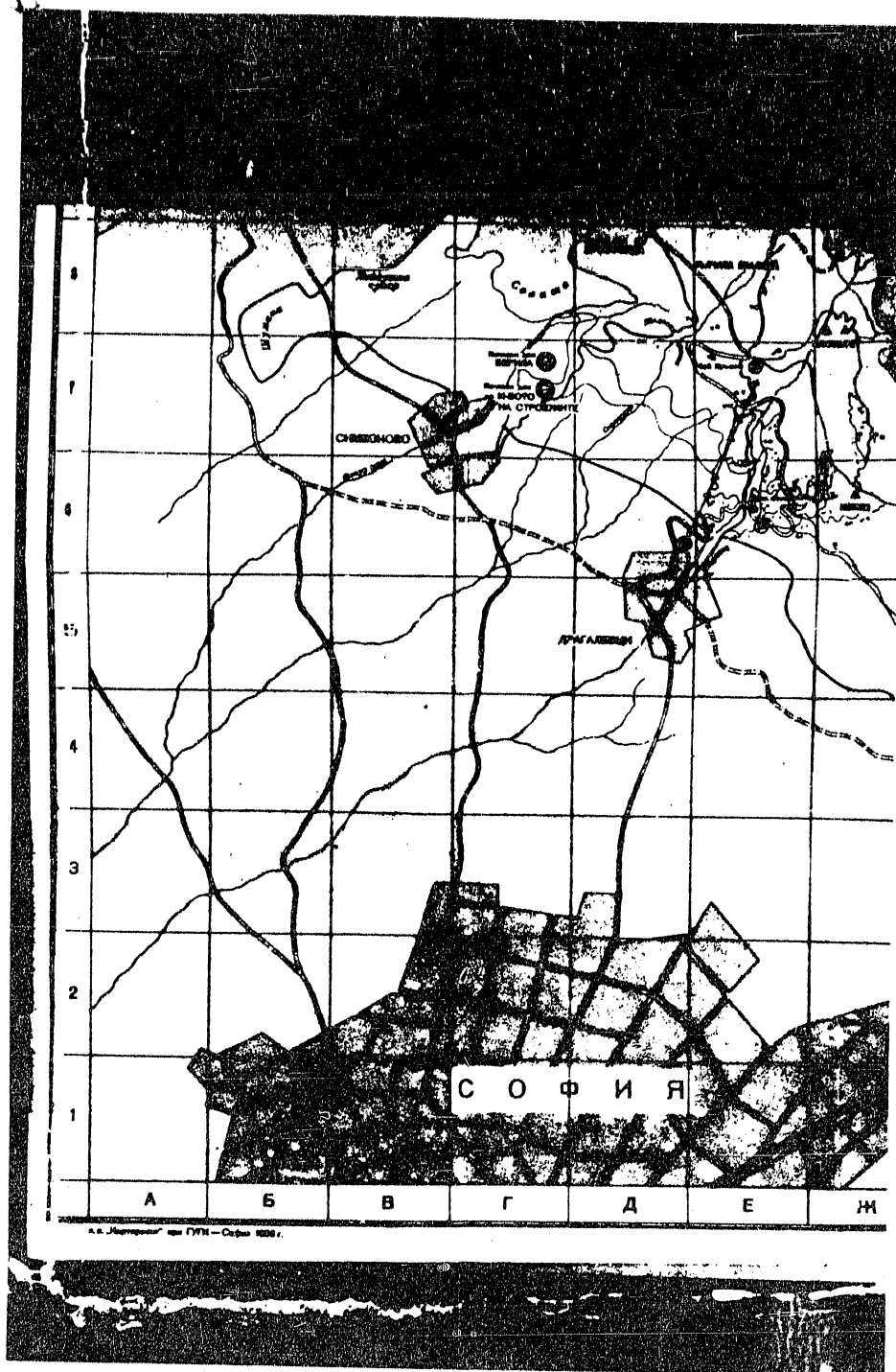








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